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REVIEWS

Narrative of the Arctic Land Expedition to the Mouth of the Great Fish River, in the Years 1833, 1834, and 1835. By Captain Back, R.N. Illustrated by a Map and Plates. 8vo. Murray.

Of all the voyages of discovery entered upon within our recollection, none engaged public interest so thoroughly as the Expedition, the fruits of which are before us. Independent of the natural anxiety to have solved the long-disputed problem—the existence or non-existence of a North-west passage—our sympathies as men were enlisted, our hearts went forth with the gallant ones who braved perils by land and sea in search of their lost comrades; and it will be remembered, with what eagerness was gathered and given forth all tidings which assured us of their safety, or threw light upon the progress of their wanderings; and with what honest gladness we, among the foremost, announced their safe return. But, laying aside all question as to the importance and interest of

the subject, Captain Back's volume claims an extended notice as a most interesting narrative of strange and perilous adventure, set forth in a straightforward manly spirit.

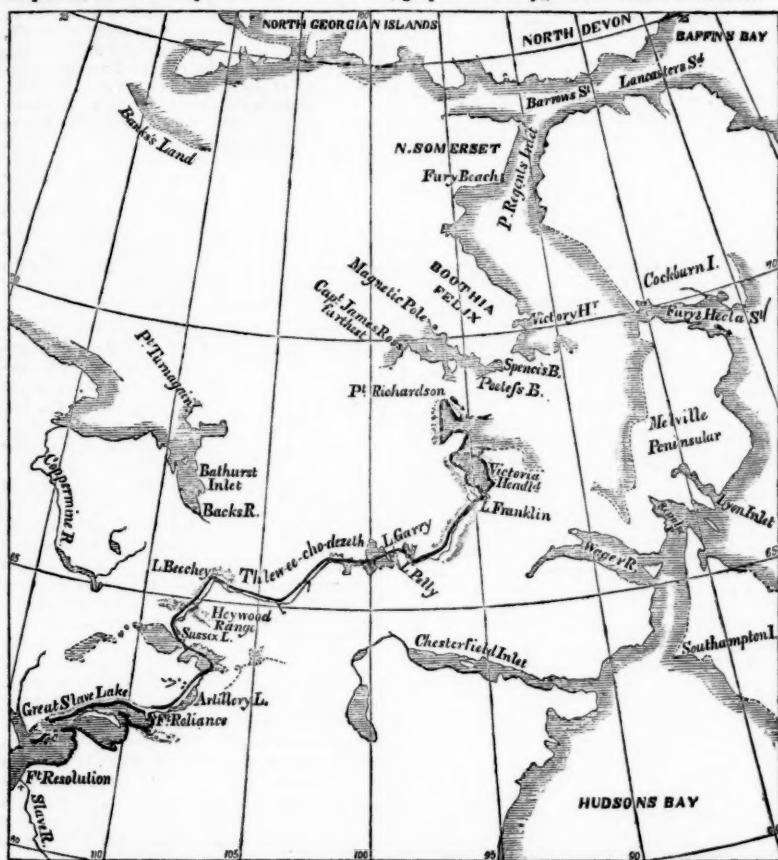
It is not necessary here minutely to recapitulate the objects of the Expedition; we may, however, remind the reader, that the first was the safety of Ross and his companions; the second, and subordinate, a survey of the coast lying between Cape Turnagain and the Strait of the *Fury* and *Hecla*. The route recommended was that followed by the North-west traders to the Slave Lake—thence to the north-eastward, in order to reach the Thlew-ee-choh-desseth (or Great Fish River), on the banks of which it was presumed that the party would find it advisable to pass the first winter; and their after movements were to be mainly guided by circumstances. In following with us the route they actually traversed, the accompanying map (an excerpt from the one published by the Geographical Society,) will be found serviceable.

May. On the 20th of the same month they arrived at Fort William, and exchanged the large canoes for smaller ones, better calculated for the inland rivers. On the 6th of June, after having crossed the Lac de la Pluie, they reached Fort Alexander, on Lake Winnepeg. Here they received efficient aid and co-operation from the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, and starting thence on the 11th, reached Norway House, on the Jack River. Here they found some trouble in completing their number of volunteers, the men, for the most part, demanding the same privileges and emoluments as had been granted to those who had shared in former and more munificently endowed expeditions. By the 28th of June, however, all was arranged, and they left Norway House.

"June 28th.—This was a happy day for me; and as the canoe pushed off from the bank, my heart swelled with hope and joy. Now, for the first time, I saw myself in a condition to verify the kind anticipations of my friends. The preliminary difficulties had been overcome: I was fairly on the way to the accomplishment of the benevolent errand on which I had been commissioned; and the contemplation of an object so worthy of all exertion, in which I thought myself at length free to indulge, raised my spirits to a more than ordinary pitch of excitement."

Captain Back's inquiries as to the position and the practicability of Thlew-ee-choh, were in some measure answered by Mr. Charles, the officer in charge of the Athabasca district, whom he encountered on his first day's journey, and who had derived his information from an Indian chief, "Le Grand Jeune Homme." The latter recommended the voyagers to try the Téthlon, a river whose mouth was close to that of the Thlew-ee-choh, and was less hazardous in its navigation. The chief also expressed his anxiety to join the exploring party.

On the following morning a light breeze sprung up, which presently increased to a gale. "Nothing is more annoying to a sailor than to be wind bound on fresh water. 'On the wide ocean ranging,' he is more resigned to the imperious will of the elements; but, to be stopped for an indefinite time, within sight of birds and animals gambling in the gale, is a species of annoyance which quite overcomes his philosophy: at least, it was so with me; so, to dispel the moody fit which was gathering, I drew on a pair of Esquimaux boots made of seal-skin, and, taking my gun, made the tour of a thickly wooded swamp, which was so interlaced with undergrowth, willows, and fallen trees, that, when once in, I found it no easy matter to get out again. In the exertion necessary for extricating myself my restlessness found a vent, and the exercise soon restored my mind to its usual tone, and prepared it for other occupations. I returned to the tent thoroughly tired; and, here reclining in the full case of a *voyageur*, I amused myself with observing the odd assemblage of things around me. At my feet was a rolled bundle in an oil-cloth, containing some three blankets, called a bed;—near it a piece of dried buffalo, fancifully ornamented with long black hairs, which no art, alas! can prevent from insinuating themselves between the teeth, as you laboriously masticate the tough, hard flesh;—then a tolerably clean napkin spread, by way of table-cloth, on a red piece of canvass, and supporting a tea-pot, some biscuit, and a salt-cellar;—near this a tin plate, close by a square kind of box or safe, of the same material, rich with a pale greasy ham, the produce of the colony at Rod River;—and, last, the far-renowned pemmican, unquestionably the best food of the country for expeditions such as ours. Behind me were two boxes,



It was on Sunday, the 17th of February 1833, that Captain Back embarked from Liverpool, accompanied by Mr. King, as surgeon and naturalist, and three men, two of whom had served under Sir John Franklin. After a passage of thirty-five days they arrived at New York, and they reached Montreal on the 9th of April.

We mention these unimportant particulars to keep the chain of dates unbroken. On the 25th, the adventurers were once again fairly under way—they sailed up the Ottawa, thence by a tributary stream to Lake Nipissing, descending the Rivière de St. Francis to Lake Huron, and reaching the Sault St. Marie on the 11th of

containing astronomical instruments, and a sextant lying on the ground;—whilst the different corners of the tent were occupied by washing apparatus, a gun, Indian shot pouch, bags, basins, and an unhappy-looking jappaned pot, whose melancholy bumps and hollows seemed to reproach me for many a bruise endured upon the rocks and portages betwixt Montreal and Lake Winnipeg. Nor was my crew less motley than the furniture of my tent. It consisted of an Englishman,—a man from Stornaway,—two Canadians,—two Métifs (or half-breeds),—and three Iroquois Indians. Babel could not have produced a worse confusion of unharmonious sounds than was the conversation they kept up."

On the 1st of July, they were delivered from this durance vile; and reached Pine Island Lake on the 6th. Hence Mr. King started with the two bateaux,—the Captain following on the 7th, who overtook him on the Sturgeon River, or (so called from its uninterrupted rapids) the Rivière Maligne. On the 17th, they arrived at the Isle à la Croix, where some further arrangements were made, and pemmican, dogs, &c. &c. were embarked. They then entered Buffalo Lake, which deserves, it would seem, as bad a name as the last-mentioned stream:—

"Few persons have ever completed the long traverse of this deceitful lake, without being favoured by a breeze that endangered their lives. I had been caught before; yet, from the unruffled smoothness of its wide surface, I began to fancy that we were now to be exempted from the usual compliment. The men sung and paddled with energy, the fitful cry of a slightly wounded bittern, which lay at the bottom of the canoe, serving for an accompaniment; and we had gained the centre of the traverse, when suddenly a gentle air was felt coming from the well-known quarter of the Buffalo Mountain. The suspicious guide would now no longer permit even the customary rest of a few minutes to recover strength, but urged the crew to exertion; and they, ever and anon looking towards the blue summits of the mountain with something of a superstitious glance, made our light bark skim over the water like a thing impelled by wings. A dark cloud rose from behind the mountain, and began to expand towards the zenith; little gusts of wind followed; and in less than half an hour we were in the midst of a thunder-storm, that raised a sea from which there was no escape but by hoisting a shred of a sail, and running through breakers to the nearest lee land."

On the 21st, the Captain observes,—

"After labouring, with frequent halts, through the thick woods, we came suddenly upon the spot from which the picturesque and beautiful view from Portage la Loche bursts upon the sight. A thousand feet below, the sylvan landscape lay spread before us, to the extent of thirty-six miles, in all the wild luxuriance of its summer clothing. Even the most jaded of the party, as he broke from the gloom of the wood on this enchanting scene, seemed to forget his weariness, and halted involuntarily with his burden, to gaze for a moment, with a sort of wondering admiration, on a spectacle so novel and magnificent. * *

"There is something appalling in the vastness of a solitude like this. I had parted from my companions, and was apparently the only living being in the wilderness around me. Almost unconsciously I reloaded my gun; and then, stepping cautiously along the narrow ridge of the descent, glided silently into the valley, as if afraid to disturb the genius of the place. It was a positive comfort to hear, now and then, the hollow tread of the men as they passed rapidly through the thicket which screened them from sight; and when the white tent was pitched, and the curling smoke rose through the dense green of the forest, it seemed as if the spell of the desert was broken, and the whole landscape was suddenly animated into life and cheerfulness."

At the Pine portage they encountered Messrs. McLeod and Stuart, the former of whom proved a zealous and valuable assistant to the expedition. On the 29th of July they reached Fort Chippewyan; leaving it again on the 1st of August. On the 4th they met, on Salt River,

with a tribe of Indians, of an appearance more peculiar than pleasing:—

"The *tout ensemble* of these 'people,' as they, with some vanity, style themselves, was wild and grotesque in the extreme. One canoe in particular fixed my attention; it was small even for a canoe; and how eight men, women, and children, contrived to stow away their legs, in a space not more than large enough for three Europeans, would have been a puzzling problem to one unacquainted with the suppleness of an Indian's unbanded limbs. There, however, they were, in a temperature of 66°, packed heads and tails like Yarmouth herrings—half naked—their hair in elf-locks, long and matted—filthy beyond description—and all squalling together. To complete the picture, their dogs, scarce one degree below them, formed a sort of body guard, on each side of the river; and as the canoe glided away with the current, all the animals together, human and canine, set up a shrill and horrible yell."

From these uncouth people, Mr. McLeod contrived to elicit some information concerning the Thlew-ee-choh: like the "Grand Jeune Homme," they recommended the party to try its larger neighbour, the Teh-lon.

On the 8th of August Captain Back reached Fort Resolution, on the Great Slave Lake. Shortly after started in search of the much-talked-of, and much-condemned river in question, which the natives appear to speak of with almost a superstitious dread; and here, as we are getting beyond the cognizance of most geographers, it would serve no good purpose to follow the party's route so closely as we have hitherto done. We shall therefore content ourselves with referring our readers to the map, and giving them scattered extracts and fragments of adventure. Here is an Indian group, encountered on the Cha-bilka, a stream flowing from the Salt River:—

"The successful hunters, apparently not a little vain of their prowess, were either lying at full length on the grass, whiffing the cherished pipe, or lounging on their elbows, to watch the frizzling of a rich marrow bone, the customary perquisite of their labours. Women were lighting or tending the fires, over which were suspended rows of thinly sliced meat—some screaming to thievish dogs making free with the hunt, and others with still louder screams endeavouring to drown the shrill cries of their children, who, swaddled, and unable to stir, were half suffocated with the smoke; while, to complete the scene, eight or ten boys at play were twining their copper-coloured bodies over and under some white bark canoes, like so many land dolphins. * *

"A clump of trees had prevented me from observing another group, consisting of La Prise and his followers. He had undertaken to paddle my half-sized canoe to the other end of the lake; but finding, as he said, that two persons were required to keep her free from water, he had wisely put on shore to repair her. After that operation, twelve of them, with several dogs, squeezed themselves into her, and yet managed so well, that we had hard work to keep way with them. On parting from the Indians, we were supplied with fresh meat. One of them, to show his respect, put on a surcoat that he had purchased at the Fort. The coat was unbuttoned; and, as he was unprovided with inexpressibles, the effect was extremely comical. It is curious, by the way, to observe that the notion of testifying respect by appearing in full dress, if in this case the term can be properly applied, is not confined to drawing-rooms and courts."

The daily progress of the party was now diversified by hunting adventures, and (less agreeable) squabbles among the *voyageurs*. On the 17th of August, the Indians alarmed, it is supposed, at the weight of the baggage, began to waver in their descriptions of the position of the rivers in question, and to represent the portages of the intervening country as altogether impracticable. On the 18th the party arrived at the Hoar-Frost River, whose rocks and rapids were more picturesque (in witness whereof we have two beautiful illustrations,) than welcome.

"August 20.—The thermometer had fallen to 36°, and at four A. M., as soon as the sunken rocks, and other impediments to our progress, could be distinguished, we got away, and went on cheerily enough, until interrupted by a rapid, which was succeeded by so many more, that for the best part of the morning we did little else than lighten the canoe and drag it up with a line: at length a fall of twenty feet obliged us to carry both canoe and baggage. This passed, other rapids presented themselves; until finally the canoe got so seriously damaged by the shocks, as to make us hasten on shore to avoid sinking. The unhappy interpreter had been unable to take any share in the work, and was evidently suffering severe pain, which he begged of me to assuage. I had only a box of common pills, and some brandy, neither of which could be prudently applied to a case which seemed to require the skill and attention of a professional man. The poor fellow, however, persisted in his belief that I could relieve him, not doubting that anything under the name of medicine would answer the purpose. I yielded, therefore, to his importunity, and indulged him, first with the contents of the box, which made him worse; and next with the contents of the bottle, which made him better."

"Scarcely was the canoe repaired, and our labour recommenced, when we were involved in fresh troubles, by a most intricate channel of deep water, thickly studded with sharp angular rocks, sometimes so close together as barely to allow of a passage. The stream having at this part a considerable fall, rushed between or bubbled over them, with a force that almost swept the hauling men off their legs; and no sooner had they with great resolution surmounted this difficulty, than a fresh demand was made on their energy by the appearance of three distinct falls, rising like huge steps to the height of forty-five feet. Again, therefore, the whole *matériel* was to be carried, much to the annoyance of the crew, to whom, on such occasions, the sickness of any of their companions is a matter of serious importance. One or two more rapids, and a narrow fall of twenty feet, terminated the ascent of this turbulent and unfriendly river. Nothing, however, can be more romantically beautiful than the wild scenery of its course. High rocks beetling over the rapids like towers, or rent into the most diversified forms, gay with various coloured mosses, or shaded by overhanging trees—now a tranquil pool, lying like a sheet of silver—now the dash and foam of a cataract,—these are a part only of its picturesque and striking features."

On the 29th of August, Captain Back was rewarded for his labours and sufferings, by discovering Sussex Lake, the source the Thlew-ee-choh, the object of their anxious search: others of the party, who shortly after came up, had fallen on the river in another spot, and described it as being large enough for boats. On the following day the travellers continued their progress—it was impossible, however, for them to proceed much further, owing to the succession of rapids they encountered, the decayed state of their canoe, "which was too weak to run, and too rickety to be carried over," and the lateness of the season. At Musk-Ox Lake, then, they had no choice, save to retrace their steps, meeting by the way with few adventures save such as have already been indicated in our extracts; a chance meeting with the Indians, severe fatigue in the passage of some portage, or rapid, (the latter, on the Ah-hel-dessy, being more than usually frequent and dangerous,) or the minor annoyances of mosquitoes and sand-flies. Some points of character, however, in their native guides, come out in the course of these wanderings. Here is a hunting episode. The Indian having caught sight of a solitary bear, instantly seized a gun, and went with De Charlot in pursuit.

"The rock and valley favoured their approach; and, though Bruin was on the look-out, and, raising himself on his hind legs, stretched out his neck, with a sort of waltzing motion, sniffing the wind suspiciously, all his care was ineffectual—in ten minutes he was lying dead, at the foot of the precipice over which he rolled as he fell. Maufelly immediately

ran to some willows; and, having cut a branch and trimmed it into a skewer, he fixed it into the bear's mouth, in such a manner as to keep the jaws fully extended; which, he assured me, with much gravity, would prevent its biting, as many of its kind had been known to do, and as his own father had found to his cost. To that hour, he said, he bore the marks of one which he thought had been dead, and was deliberately preparing to cut up; when, to his great horror, it seized him by the leg. Aware of their obstinacy of belief in all matters connected with hunting, or relating to the animals with which they were familiar, I made no vain attempts to convince them of their errors, however ridiculous, but listened patiently, and without comment, to their stories; but my steersman was so much diverted at the gaping countenance of Bruin, that he gave loose to his mirth; which so annoyed the Indian, that, with a glance of ineffable contempt, not unmixed with anger, he muttered in his guttural language, 'The white man did not laugh in the rapid.' He then sat down and smoked his pipe, while his companion expertly stripped off the skin, and placed the meat in *cache*, to be sent for at a future opportunity. I could not avoid remarking the minute curiosity with which the operator inspected the entrails, the haste with which he threw over his shoulders a portion that he had lopped off, carefully refraining to look in that direction, and the smile which played over his features at beholding the stomach filled with berries. 'C'est leur façon,' said the interpreter to my inquiry, who, notwithstanding the philosophic tenor of his answer, was evidently as interested in the scrutiny as the Indian himself. By the same 'façon,' I learned that reindeer had no gall-bladder in the region of the liver, nor anywhere else, that they could discover; a fact of which I have no hesitation in confessing my previous ignorance, but which was subsequently verified by the anatomical examination of Mr. King.

Early in September the party reached the eastern extremity of the Lake, where Mr. McLeod had undertaken to build their winter quarters. The sight of shelter, though but the frame-work of a house, must have been welcome to men so weary as our travellers; the insects, too, we are told, had attacked them with such voracity, that 'their faces streamed with blood as if leeches had been applied.'

'We were ranged in single file, the men having, of their own accord, fallen into that order; and, with our swollen faces, dressed and laden as we were, some carrying guns, others tent poles, &c., we must have presented a strangely wild appearance, not unlike a group of robbers on the stage.'

Here, then, the party prepared to pass the winter. Mr. King, joined on the 17th of September with the two bateaux, and the house was presently completed. Scarcely, however, were they settled in it, when they were visited by a party of Indians, on a begging errand; others flocked in during October, literally in a starving state. The Captain well remarks, that there is no reasoning with hunger, and cites a melancholy catastrophe, which had recently taken place, to show that the Indian makes no exception to the general rule.

'At one of the Company's posts in the northern department, where the animals, as in our case, were so scarce that the natives could not procure subsistence, they threw themselves on the generosity of the gentleman in charge, and requested a small proportion of the meat out of his well-stocked store, to enable them to recruit their strength for fresh efforts in the chase. They were denied; and returned dejected to their wintry abode. Now and then a moose deer was killed, but long was the fasting between; and in those intervals of gripping pain, the inhospitality of the white man was dwelt upon with savage indignation, which at last vented itself in projects of revenge. An opportunity presented itself in the arrival at their lodges of the interpreter, who had been despatched from the factory to see what they were doing. This man had not been popular with them before, and the part he had taken in the late transaction had aggravated the feeling against him. Of this he was himself aware; and being a half-breed, was not without the cautious suspicion

which is characteristic of the aboriginal. Still the wonted familiarity, and the friendly pipe that greeted his entrance into the principal lodge, diminished his fears; and a little dried meat, given with apparent cheerfulness for the use of the fort, finally removed all apprehension. Two Canadians, who had accompanied him, left early on their return; and, in an hour after, he followed their steps. The Indians watched him until he was hid by the woods; then grasped their guns, and by a short cut gained a spot favourable for their purpose before any of the three had arrived. Cowering in ambush within ten paces of the track, they waited for their approach, and at a given signal fired, and brought down two of the unsuspecting travellers. The third fled, and was pursued with savage yells by the infuriated Indians. Fear added wings to the Canadian; and having outstripped the foremost, he hid himself breathless and exhausted among some rocks. The Indians rushed past without perceiving him, and having reached the house, broke furiously into the apartment of the gentleman, who had not yet risen, and after reproaching him with the horrors he had caused, instantly deprived him of life.

'Their vengeance being thus horribly satiated, they returned to the woods without committing the slightest act of spoliation. The Canadian and another man, whom, strange to say, they did not molest, hastened to the neighbouring posts, with an account of this shocking catastrophe. Fresh parties were established at the same station, and the perpetrators of the murder were finally hunted down by the people of their own tribe,—a melancholy but salutary lesson not only to the red man but to the white.'

The observatory was completed by the middle of October, and meteorological observations commenced; by the latter end of the month, the river and the border of the lake were frozen over, but the weather was singularly mild, and this caused the deer to remain in the barren lands, and contributed to the unparalleled sufferings of the Indians, who continued to pour in upon the cottage in the wilderness:—

'Amongst other fancies, they began to imagine that the instruments in the observatory, concealed from every one but Mr. King and myself, were the mysterious cause of all their misfortunes: nor were they singular in this opinion; for on one occasion, when taking the dip, &c. two of the *voyageurs* listened, and hearing only a word at intervals, such as 'Now! Stop!' always succeeded by a perfect silence, they looked at each other, and with significant shrugs, turning hastily away from the railing, reported to their companions that they verily believed I was 'raising the devil.'

On the 15th of November, the party took possession of Fort Reliance, though hardly with a house-warming; as the dread of short commons began to press upon them, which was, however, in some measure, mitigated by the arrival of the reader's old acquaintance, Akaicheo, with a little meat—still, however, they were beset by hungry Indians, who seem on the whole to have been patient and reasonable. Some of their superstitions are curious. One day a middle-aged woman, with a girl about six years old, came to claim protection from the strangers, having stepped over a hunter's gun in the night, and thus taken away its fatality—a sort of backward reading of the legend of 'Der Freischütz.' The winter, we imagine, must have passed drearily enough; but the Captain makes light of difficulties, and talks of a pemmican dinner on Christmas Day, with thankful heartiness. The cold too must have been intense as the season advanced.

'On the 4th of February, the temperature was 60° minus, and, there being at the same time a fresh breeze, was nearly insupportable. Such, indeed, was the abstraction of heat, that, with eight large logs of dry wood in the fireplace of a small room, I could not get the thermometer higher than 12° plus. Ink and paint froze. I made an attempt to finish a sketch, by placing the table as near the fire as I could bear the heat; but a scratchy mark, and small shining particles at the point of the sable, convinced me that

it was useless. The sextant cases, and boxes of seasoned wood, principally fir, all split. Nor was the sensation particularly agreeable to our persons; the skin of the hands especially became dry, cracked, and opened into unsightly and smarting gashes, which we were obliged to anoint with grease. On one occasion, after washing my face within three feet of the fire, my hair was actually clotted with ice, before I had time to dry it. From these facts some idea may, perhaps, be formed of the excessive cold. It seemed to have driven all living things from us: we had been accustomed to see a few white partridges about; but even these, hardly as they are, had disappeared. Once, indeed, a solitary raven, whose croak made me run out to look at him, swept round the house, but immediately winged his flight to the westward. Nothing but the passing wind broke the awful solitude of this barren and desolate spot.'

With the continuance of the famine, came out the darker features of the savage character, and a tale of cannibalism is told from hearsay, which we are glad not to have room for. As a set-off against its selfish and unnatural cruelty, it is only fair to mention the good faith and good conduct of Akaicheo, who continued an efficient and trusty ally during the whole of this fearful season. About the middle of February, Maufelly, the Indian guide, arrived, with the acceptable load of four deer. Captain Back's management, during these times of privation,—which we 'who sit at home at ease' cannot but contemplate as through a diminishing glass,—was admirable; he seems to have inspired all about him with his own cheerful activity. Towards the middle of March, he heard that his former faithful and affectionate companion, Augustus, the Esquimaux interpreter, had set forth from Fort Resolution to join the expedition—alas! never to reach it. A pleasanter entry is found on the 25th of April:—

'April 25th.—This was the anniversary of our departure from La Chine. We were talking for about the hundredth time of those kind persons who had come so far to see us away, and had begun to speculate on their different occupations at that very hour, when we were interrupted by a sharp and loud knock at the door. The permission to come in was unnecessary, for the person followed the announcement before the words could be uttered, and with the same despatch thrust into my hands a packet, which a glance sufficed to tell me was from England. 'He is returned, sir!' said the messenger, as we looked at him with surprise. 'What! Augustus—thank God!' I replied, quickly. 'Captain Ross, sir.—Captain Ross is returned.' 'Eh! are you quite sure? is there no error? where is the account from?' The man paused, looked at me, and pointing with his finger, said, 'You have it in your hand, sir.' It was so; but the packet had been forgotten in the excitement and hurry of my feelings. Two open extracts from the Times and Morning Herald confirmed the tidings; and my official letter, with others from the long-lost adventurers themselves—from Captain Maconochie, Mr. Garry, Governor Simpson, and many other friends, English and American, removed all possible doubt, and evinced, at the same time, the powerful interest which the event had awakened in the public, by a great proportion of whom the party had long since been numbered among the dead. To me the intelligence was peculiarly gratifying, not only as verifying my previously expressed opinions, but as demonstrating the wisdom as well as the humanity of the course pursued by the promoters of our expedition, who had thereby rescued the British nation from an imputation of indifference which it was far indeed from meriting. In the fulness of our hearts, we assembled together, and humbly offered up our thanks to that merciful Providence, which in the beautiful language of Scripture hath said, 'Mine own will I bring again, as I did sometime from the depths of the sea.' The thought of so wonderful a preservation overpowered for a time the common occurrences of life. We had but just sat down to breakfast; but our appetite was gone, and the day was passed in a feverish state of excitement. Seldom, indeed, did my friend Mr. King or I indulge in a libation, but on this joyful occasion economy was forgotten; a

treat was given to the men, and for ourselves the social sympathies were quickened by a generous bowl of punch."

Captain Back now determined on proceeding with one boat instead of two, selecting the best men for his crew. Preparations were accordingly made, and his boats and stores transferred to the Thlew-ee-choh, and on the 5th of June the party took leave of their winter habitation, taking a northerly direction through the woods: in the course of the following day they had reached Artillery Lake. Their second journey was marked by severe hardship—a rugged ungenial country—storms and famine. On the 16th of June—

"The thermometer stood at 33°, with snow, and a raw cold wind that pierced through us in spite of cloaks or blankets. It was two o'clock in the morning; and, as I had not yet dined, certain internal gnawings began to intimate the propriety of supplying the organs of digestion with some occupation which might keep them from quarrelling among themselves. Oh! thought I, for a cheerful fire, and a warm comfortable meal! Accordingly, having managed to collect a beggarly account of wet branches, we applied ourselves, with laudable zeal, to ignite and blow them into a flame. The moss and shrubs were saturated, and would not burn; but it was fondly imagined that, by dint of perseverance and relieving each other quickly, the dwarf birch might be importuned into a blaze. We puffed, and it smoked—again, and it lighted—still more, and it went out; the puffing was renewed—it looked cheerful, and wanted only a little more coaxing. 'The least thing in the world,' said one, blowing gently, though at the distance of a yard. 'Mind what you're about,' cried another, 'there! it will go out,—it's all over.' 'Oh! get out of the way, let me come,' bawled a third: and thrusting himself forward, applied himself to the work with such vigour and force of lungs, that the few embers yet living flew scattered about like the sparks of an exploded cracker. 'We cannot make a fire,' said my servant to me, who had been latterly a passive though not an uninterested spectator of the proceeding; 'but I have brought you some pemmican and a little cold water, Sir.'"

The 24th of the same month is duly honoured in remembrance as "a warm day." On the 1st of July the party came upon an encampment of Indians, with their old cry of "Etthen-oolah, etthen-ta-houty"—"no deer, the deer are gone away," and a petition for tobacco, on the plea that they were "hungry for a smoke." On the 2nd they ran through a small lake past Hayward range—a considerable chain of hills. On the 4th Captain Back parted company with Mr. McLeod and Akaitcho, who prognosticated all manner of evil to be expected in a course down a river so little known as the Thlew-ee-choh; and, in truth, the rapids appear to have been formidable enough to justify his apprehension. "Towards the close of the day's journey" (on the 13th) "the country assumed a more mountainous and imposing appearance, but continued rugged and desolate." On the 15th, however, "the mountains had dwindled to hills," and the party had entered a lake named after Captain Beechey. On the 16th they reached a point where the stream was swelled by another from the eastward, as broad as the Thames at Westminster Bridge. Further tributaries increased its volume as they proceeded; but we presently hear again of dangers and obstructions:—

"Early in the following morning we pushed out into the beginning of the rapids, when the boat was twirled about in whirlpools against the oars; and but for the amazing strength of McKay, who steered, it must inevitably have been crushed against the faces of the protruding rocks. As we entered the defile, the rocks on the right presented a high and perpendicular front, so slaty and regular that it needed no force of imagination to suppose them severed at one great blow from the opposite range; which, craggy, broken, and overhanging, towered in

stratified and many-coloured masses far above the chafing torrent. There was a deep and settled gloom in the abyss—the effect of which was heightened by the hollow roar of the rapid, still in deep shade, and by the screaming of three large hawks, which frightened from their ærie were hovering high above the middle of the pass, and gazing fixedly upon the first intruders on their solitude: so that I felt relieved as it were from a load when we once more burst forth into the bright sunshine of day. The boat was then allowed to drive with the current, the velocity of which was not less than six miles an hour, among whirlpools and eddies, which strangely buffeted her about. The men, glad to rest from their oars, were either carelessly looking at the objects which they passed, or whiffing the ever welcome pipe, when something was seen swimming a little ahead, which was taken for a young fawn. As we nearly touched it in passing, the bowman, almost without looking, stretched out his hand to grasp it; but drew it in again as quick as lightning, and springing up for the boat-hook, called out, 'D—n it, it has bit me! it's a fox.' I would not allow it to be fired at; and Reynard gained the bank, and skipped about as if enjoying the trick he had played."

On the 19th the current of the river was lost in a large lake, (Lake Pelly) which was itself blocked with unbroken ice. On the 21st, by a series of manœuvres through the ice, and portages, they reached another splendid sheet of water, christened Lake Garry, and terminating in a rapid, or rather a succession of rapids, which whirled them along, at imminent peril to their crazy boat. These brought them to Lake Macdougall, a third sheet of water, which surpassed all that they had yet discovered. The scenery, too, is here described as unusually splendid:—

"Bending short round to the left, and in a comparatively contracted channel, the whole force of the water glided smoothly but irresistibly towards two stupendous gneiss rocks, from five to eight hundred feet high, rising like islands on either side. Our first care was to secure the boat in a small curve to the left, near which the river disappeared in its descent, sending up showers of spray. We found it was not one fall, as the hollow roar had led us to believe, but a succession of falls and cascades, and whatever else is horrible in such 'confusion worse confounded.' It expanded to about the breadth of four hundred yards, having near the centre an insulated rock about three hundred feet high, having the same barren and naked appearance as those on each side. From the projection of the main western shore, which concealed the opening, issued another serpentine rapid and fall; while to the right there was a strife of surge and rock, the roar of which was heard far and wide. The space occupying the centre from the first descent to the island was full of sunken rocks of unequal heights, over which the rapid foamed, and boiled, and rushed with impetuous and deadly fury. At that part it was raised into an arch; while the sides were yawning and cavernous, swallowing huge masses of ice, and then again tossing the splintered fragments high into the air."

By the 25th the river was a mile broad. A day or two afterwards, the voyagers began to notice traces of the Esquimaux; and, after having passed a fourth lake (Lake Franklin), they encountered a party of them, little differing, as far as we can recollect, from those "foregathered with" by former travellers. Here, however, is the written portrait of a lady, which accompanies her sketched likeness:—

"The women were much tattooed about the face and the middle and fourth fingers. The only lady whose portrait was sketched was so flattered at being selected for the distinction, that in her fear lest I should not sufficiently see every grace of her good-tempered countenance, she intently watched my eye; and, according to her notion of the part I was pencilling, protruded it, or turned it so as to leave me no excuse for not delineating it in the full proportion of its beauty. Thus, seeing me look at her head, she immediately bent it down; stared portentously when I sketched her eyes; puffed out her cheeks when their turn arrived; and, finally, perceiving that I was

touching in the mouth, opened it to the full extent of her jaws, and thrust out the whole length of her tongue. She had six tattooed lines drawn obliquely from the nostrils across each cheek; eighteen from her mouth across her chin and the lower part of the face; ten small ones, branching like a larch tree from the corner of each eye; and eight from the forehead to the centre of the nose between the eyebrows. But what was most remarkable in her appearance was the oblique position of the eyes; the inner portion of which was considerably depressed, whilst the other was proportionately elevated. The nostrils were a good deal expanded, and the mouth large. Her hair was jet black, and simply parted in front into two large curls, or rather festoons, which were secured in their places by a fillet of white deer skin twined round the head, whilst the remainder hung loose behind the ears, or flowed not ungracefully over her neck and shoulders. She was the most conspicuous, though they were all of the same family: they were singularly clean in their persons and garments; and, notwithstanding the linear embellishments of their faces, in whose mysterious figures a mathematician might perhaps have found something to solve or perplex, they possessed a sprightliness which gave them favour in the eyes of my crew, who declared 'they were a set of bonnie-looking creatures.'"

On the 29th, to use Capt. Back's own words, "it was while threading our way between some sand-banks, with a strong current, that we first caught sight of a majestic headland in the extreme distance to the north, which had a coast-like appearance. This important promontory was subsequently honoured by receiving the name of Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria." They had, in short, reached the sea, in latitude 67° 7' N, longitude 94° 40' W. Here they disembarked, and established themselves on an island, with the intention of proceeding, at some convenient opportunity, to Point Turnagain: this triumph, however, was denied to their exertions. On the 10th of August an event occurred worthy of notice:—

"The place where we encamped, and, indeed, every foot of this sandy soil, was covered with small shells resembling cockles and bivalves. Innumerable rills of fresh water ran in opposite directions from the central ridge. About 8 p.m. the rain began to fall again, though without at all clearing the fog, and the wind from north-west increased to a strong breeze. A shout of 'What have you got there?' announced the return of the men: the jocular answer of 'A piece of the North Pole,' immediately brought Mr. King and myself from out the tent; and we found that they had really picked up a piece of drift-wood nine feet long, and nine inches in diameter, together with a few sticks of smaller drift-wood, and a part of a kieyak. When the large trunk was sawed, I was rather surprised to see it very little sodden with water; a proof that it could not have been exposed for any considerable time to its action. From the peculiar character of the wood, which was pine, of that kind which is remarkable for its freedom from knots, I had no doubt that it had originally grown somewhere in the upper part of the country, about the McKenzie; and of this I was the more competent to judge from my recollection of the drift-wood west of that large river, which it exactly resembled. Though we had strong reasons to be grateful for this unlooked-for treasure, as affording us the means of enjoying a hot meal—the first for several days,—yet there were other considerations which gave it in my eyes a far greater importance. In it I saw what I thought an incontrovertible proof of the set of a current from the westward along the coast to our left, and that consequently we had arrived at the main line of the land; for it is a fact, well known to the officers of both Sir John Franklin's expeditions, that the absence of drift-wood was always regarded as an infallible sign that we had gone astray from the main, either among islands or in some such opening as Bathurst's Inlet, where, by reason of the set of the current, not a piece of any size was found."

The weather now became more variable and inclement, and towards the 14th Captain Back found it necessary to decide on his return. We

have little more to add than his own closing paragraphs:—

"I shall not attempt to describe what were my feelings at finding my endeavours baffled in every quarter but the one with which (however interesting as regarded the trending of the land) I had no concern. When the mind has been made up to encounter disasters and reverses, and has fixed a point as the zero of its scale, however for a time it may be depressed by doubts and difficulties, it will mount up again with the first gleam of hope for the future; but, in this instance, there was no expedient by which we could overcome the obstacles before us: every resource was exhausted, and it was vain to expect that any efforts, however strenuous, could avail against the close-wedged ice, and the constant fogs which enveloped every thing in impenetrable obscurity. No one of course can regret so much as I do that the important and interesting object of ascertaining the existence of a passage along the coast to Point Turnagain was not accomplished; but if there be any who think that little was achieved, in comparison with what was undertaken (though such a notion can hardly with justice be entertained), let them reflect that even in the ordinary pursuits of men, with all the appliances of civilized life to boot, the execution is rarely equal to the conception; and then also consider how much greater the impediments must be in a climate where the elements war against all intruders, and confound the calculations and set at naught the talents even of such men as Parry and Franklin."

There is no need of our following the Expedition on its return. We cannot, however, take leave of the subject, and of this interesting volume, without recommending the readers to turn to the *Athenæum* for 1835, p. 698, and to read once again the general sketch there given of the results of the Expedition. Here it will be sufficient for us to direct his attention to the fact of how little remains to be done to complete the survey of this coast, and how imperative it is that this should be achieved by our countrymen. If they be not up and stirring, others will wear the honours which they have, in reality, won. Reports are already abroad, of Expeditions about to be fitted out by Russia. For the honour of our country, we should anticipate these interlopers; and in justice, too, to our brave officers, who will have endured so much, and so vainly, if they have only cleared the way for strangers to "come in and possess their heritage."

Wills and Inventories, illustrative of the History, Manners, Language, Statistics, &c. of the Northern Counties of England, from the Eleventh Century downwards. Part I. 8vo. Nichols & Son.

This volume owes its existence to the following observation of the Rev. Joseph Hunter, in the preface to the second volume of his 'History of the Deanery of Doncaster':—

"There are two entire classes of public records, both highly important, which, I am conscious, have been but imperfectly used—I mean the Inquisitions *post mortem*, and the early Wills. Of the early Wills we do not possess even a printed catalogue of the names of testators, much more any work which should communicate to the public the choicer portions of the information, topographical, historical, biographical, literary, which is lurking, unseen by every eye, in the dispersed, the dark and dusty depositories of the testamentary evidence of England. I am persuaded, by experience in such inquiries, that there is no department of antiquarian research, topography, public or literary history, lives of our eminent men in every department, manners, language, which would not be essentially benefited by a publication of matter, which, to an experienced eye, would appear of importance, in Wills of the Plantagenet, Tudor, and Stuart reigns; while a better acquaintance with those evidences would be the creation of a new world in our gentilitia antiquities."

We much fear that the reverend author has

overrated the information which such records are capable of affording. Where the testators, indeed, are distinguished in history, or where the testaments themselves contain provisions that really illustrate the period, such evidence will be estimated as it ought: but a search, however laborious, into these "dark and dusty depositories," will end in disappointment. Amidst such a mass of documents, something, at once striking and useful, will, doubtless, be found; but we are equally sure, that it will bear little proportion to the rubbish. In general, the phraseology of wills and inventories is the same at the same period, and the items are not greatly dissimilar. In reality, that which ought to be selected and published, is so little, in comparison with that which ought to be rejected, that two octavo volumes would be sufficient to contain all the testamentary evidence in the kingdom likely to interest the historical antiquary, while one would satisfy the general reader.

Though we cannot blame the design of the present volume, we must, however unwillingly, censure the execution. The choice of wills, inventories, and mortuaries, has been made without judgment. Nine-tenths of the testators left no name behind them; nor was their station in society such as to inspire us with a desire to know anything of their circumstances in life. Besides, had they been as distinguished as they were obscure, why so numerous a collection of bequests so nearly resembling one another? Surely one specimen of each kind would have sufficed; and we might have been spared the trouble of wading through a multitude, in which, *mutatis mutandis*, the same instrument might have served for a dozen testators of the same age and the same condition of life. Of 323 such instruments, not above one-tenth, we are confident, will have the least attraction for the reader.

But though the volume has, on the whole, inconceivably disappointed us, and left on our minds an absolute distaste to the subject, we will not dismiss it without adverting to a few of the more striking records.

The Mortuary of William de Carileph, Bishop of Durham (1082—1095), and founder of its magnificent cathedral, is the first in this collection. It deserves notice, from its containing an enumeration (which we translate) of the books belonging to the prelate, bequeathed to St. Cuthbert.

- "The Bible, in 2 volumes.
- "Three Books of St. Augustine on the Psalter, with 1 on the City of God, 1 of Epistles, and 1 on the Gospel of St. John.
- "St. Jerome on the Twelve Prophets.
- "Epistles of St. Jerome, and his Treatise on Hebrew Proper Names.
- "The Morals of St. Gregory, in 2 parts.
- "The Liber Pastoralis, of the same author.
- "Two Registers.
- "Eleven Homilies.
- "Bede's Commentary on the Gospels of St. Mark and St. Luke.
- "The Commentary of Rabanus Maurus, Archbishop of Mentz, on St. Matthew.
- "Two Books of Sermons and Homilies.
- "Pontifical Decrees.
- "History of Trojans Pompeius.
- "Prosper (of Aquitaine) on both the Contemplative and Active Life.
- "Origen on the Old Testament.
- "Julius Pomerius.
- "Tertullian.
- "Sidonius Solius Panegiricus.
- "Two Breviaries.
- "Two volumes of Antiphonies.
- "One Gradual.
- "Two volumes of Prayers for Matins.
- "Lives of the Fathers.
- "Lives of the Egyptian Monks.
- "The Monastic Diadem.

"The Enchiridion of St. Augustine.

"St. Gregory on Ezechiel.

"Bede on the Song of Songs—Dialogues—Paradise and English History of the same venerable author.

"St. Ambrose on Joseph—on Penance—on the Death of a Brother.

"St. Augustine's Confessions.

"Three Missals.

"Martyrology and Monastic Rule."

However much we may be inclined to smile at the paucity of books sufficient to form a bishop's library, it was still a respectable one for the period:—let it be compared with any belonging to the Saxon prelates, and it will be found wonderful. But we must not infer, that because an ecclesiastic had few books he read little. The contrary—at least from the invasion of the Normans to the beginning of the fourteenth century—is the fact. Men borrowed from each other, and, above all, from the monastic libraries; and numerous are the instances in which heavy deposits, or bonds to a considerable amount, were left when a valuable book was thus lent. The price of books was so enormous, that the very rich only could purchase them; and we could easily prove, that the above handful of volumes must have cost the bishop—supposing that he bought them—as much as some extensive libraries of the present day. Sometimes a single volume was thought of so much value, that it was left by will to three or four friends in succession, and ultimately became the envied property of some ecclesiastical body. Thus, in the Will of Martin de Santa Cruce, master of Sherburn Hospital, a book is left to the high altar of St. Leonard's; but the usufruct is left to Roger, Rector of Alwardstoke, "so long as the said Roger shall live." So scarce were most MSS., that money to a considerable amount could, at any time, be procured on them, and if not redeemed within a given time—generally in twelve months—they became the property of the person who had advanced the money. The University of Oxford was, in this respect, the most extensive pawnbroker's establishment in the kingdom: it kept a large chest expressly for the custody of books thus pledged; and great was its joy, when, on the arrival of the stated period, no owner came to redeem. The MS. was triumphantly removed from the chest to the shelves of the library.

That scholastic divinity was beginning to be studied by the English ecclesiastics as early as the eleventh century, is evident, from the work of Rabanus Maurus, which is remarkable for its subtlety. That in the twelfth century the study had made considerable strides, is also true, from the list of books left to the Monastic Library of Durham, by the celebrated Bishop Hugh Pudsey (1163—1195). Besides the usual Commentaries on the Gospels, Prophets, and, indeed, the whole of the books forming the sacred canon—besides the more useful compositions of the early Fathers of the Church, and a sufficient number of psalters, missals, pontifical decrees, &c., we have here

- "Epistolæ Petri Blesensis,
- "Liber unde Malum,
- "Johannes Cornubiensis de Homine Assumpto,
- "Sermones Petri Ravennatis,"

and some others, that required more than ordinary learning to understand: the second and third, in particular, are on subjects sufficiently abstruse in themselves, and rendered still more so by the manner in which they are treated. Most of the MSS. in both the preceding lists, still remain in the Dean and Chapter Library of Durham.

The style of the Wills is, as we have already observed, nearly the same, if the testators be in the same condition of life, throughout the same century. Thus, the baron or rich knight, after

bequeathing his soul to God, to St. Mary, and to all the saints, prescribes how much shall be given to the poor, how much to any particular church or altar, how much to any clerical friend to pray for him, how much for wax candles to be burned before any altar or shrine, &c., with a specification of the mortuary gift to the place where his body is to be buried. Sir William Vavasour, of Haslewood, for example, leaves his body to the new Chapel of St. Leonard, of Haslewood, and for his mortuary "his best horse with the arms befitting a knight." In wax and offerings, 20 marks: to the poor of the district, one penny each—the sum total amounting to 66*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, and "more if need be." He leaves to Sir Walter, his son and heir, one suit of armour, and one horse, "as becometh a knight." For the information of the unlearned reader, we may here observe, that, by the feudal system, no estate could be bequeathed by the possessor, unless, indeed, it were *allodial*, and then it invariably went to the eldest son. But in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, few estates were *allodial*; they were held of the crown, or of some great baron, whether spiritual or temporal, who alone could invest, and to whom homage was paid at the time of investiture. It is true, indeed, that the eldest son generally succeeded to the fief; but this was not necessarily, or always, the case, and, therefore, no vassal, however powerful, could presume to leave directions as to the disposal of his lands: had he done so, they would, by the feudal code, have reverted to the lord, and no more have returned to his family. He could, however, dispose of the live stock, implements, and produce, as he pleased. Thus, in the Will before us, Sir William leaves both to his wife and three sons:

"Item, lego Domine Nichie uxori mee omnes carucas, cum bobus et affris pertinentibus ad eadem, quas habeo in Stubbes, Kyrkemytheton, Parva Smytheton, Stapelton, et Walmesley, ad domas de morā, cum totā vesturā omnimodi bladi in terrā et in grangiā." He had, of course, the same power over his money and plate, which, like the preceding, were *personals*: "Et eidem Nichie viginti quatuor discos argenteo, cum tot sauseriis argenteis, et octo cyphos argenteos, et unum cyphum argenteum de auratum quem eadem vult eligere." After a small legacy to his second son, Sir Peter, rector of Staynton, he leaves to Henry, his third son, sixty marks, "provided that he conduct himself well before God and man, and provided especially he forsake the jade of a mistress whom he now maintaineth." Some of the following items we have translated, to show the opinions and habits of the times:—

"I also leave to my daughter the Lady Alicia, nun of Sinningthwaite, 10 pounds.

"Also to my brother Malyer, 5 marks.

"Also to my brother John, 10 marks.

"Also to Amanda, my sister, 10 marks.

"Also to the Lady Margaret, my sister, 100 shillings.

"Also to John, son of Jurdan le Vavasour, 80 shillings.

"Also to Sir Ralph Fitzwilliam, one coat of mail, and one helmet of iron, with a Gascon lance.

"Also to Sir John de Crepping, one coat of mail, and one pair of cuishes.

"Also to Sir William de Nunny, one image of the Blessed Virgin in ivory.

"Also to the Friars-preachers (Dominicans) of York, 5 marks.

"Also to the Friars-minor (Franciscans) of the same city, 5 marks.

"Also to the Friars of St. Augustine, in the same place, 40 shillings.

"Also to the Monks of Mount Carmel, 40*s.*

"Also to the Preaching-Friars of Beverley, 40*s.*

"Also to the Friars-minor of Pontefract, 6 marks.

"Also to the Friars-minor of Beverley, 40*s.*

"Also to the Dominicans of Scarborough, 40*s.*

"Also to the Franciscans of the same place, 40*s.*

"Also to the Dominicans of Yarm, 40*s.*

"Also to the Franciscans of Richmond, 40*s.*

"Also to the Franciscans of Doncaster, 40*s.*

"To the Augustine Monks of Tykhill, 40*s.*

"For the building of the church of St. John, at Pontefract, 40*s.*

"To the Nuns of Sinningthwaite, 10 marks.

"To the Nuns of Apelton, Munketon, St. Clements, York, Arthington, Essbold, Kirkeleys, Wilberforce,—each convent 40*s.*

"Also to the six officiating Chaplains in the chapel of Haslewood, to pray for my soul a whole year after my death, 30 marks.

"Also for Sir John le Vavasour, my deceased father, for masses and almsgiving, for the repose of his soul, to whom I owe the obligation, 20 pounds.

"Also for the debts of the Lady Alicia, my deceased mother, which debts I wish to be paid from my goods, before any other be discharged, 100 marks.

"Also for the Lady Nichia de Sanita Maria, towards the repose of her soul, in masses and almsgiving, as I am bound by express obligation, 20 pounds.

"Also for the celebration of masses for the repose of the soul of Simon Moses, 5 marks.

"Also for the repose of Walter de Sutton's soul, 20*s.*

"Also to Dan Stephen celebrating mass in Haslewood chapel, ½ mark."

Some of these items might furnish materials for reflection; and on the thoughtful reader they will necessarily have this effect.

Many incidental particulars, in themselves natural enough, but curious when compared with modern prices, might be collected from the volume. Thus, in the Inventory of Sir John Fitz-Marmaduke, Lord of Horden, who, at his death, was Governor of Perth for our Edward II., we have the value of several things. The value of a helmet was 6*s.* 8*d.*; of eight arrows, 1*d.*; yet the price of a bow was 6*s.* 8*d.*; of one shield, 8*d.*; of an iron chain, 2*s.*; of a mare and four fillies, 12*l.*; of a sheep, 1*s.* 6*d.*; of a goat, 1*s.*; of a quarter of wheat, 8*s.*; of a ploughing ox, 13*s.* 4*d.*, but the price of an ox for slaughter was only 8*s.*; of a hen, 1*d.*; of a fat pig, 2*s.*; of one not fed, 1*s.*; of a young pig, 2*d.*; of a capon, 1*d.*; of a crane, 2*s.* 6*d.*; of an old swan, 5*s.*

If we descend from the close of the thirteenth, to the middle of the sixteenth century, we shall find some differences in prices. Thus, in the Inventory of property left by Robert Hindmer, "parson of Sedgefield" (1558), the price of a draught ox was 2*l.*; of 6 stots, 5*l.* 16*s.*; of 8 storks, 4*l.* 16*s.*; of 66 ewes, 8*l.* 16*s.*; of 44 lambs, 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; of 5 sows, 1*l.*; of 16 young pigs, 1*l.* 12*s.*

And if we descend lower still, there is a gradual, though scarcely perceptible augmentation of prices, until after the accession of James I., when,—owing, we suppose, to the craving stomachs of the Scotch, who now flocked into the kingdom,—a great rise took place. This latter period, however, is not in the present volume; the last instrument of which bears the date of 1580.

The differences in the religious feelings with which the Wills were dictated at different periods, is, we think, the most interesting feature of the book. Thus, we translate the beginning of Sir John Daudre's, a knight of Kelloe, soon after the year 1300—

"In the name of God, amen! I, John Daudre, knight, on the day of St. Thomas the Apostle, do make my last will in this manner:—In the first place, I bequeath my soul to God and to St. Mary, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Our Lady, at Sedgefield. For a mortuary, I give my best horse, with a suit of armour.

"Also in wax, 40*s.*

"Also in offerings and vigils, 20*s.*

"Also in alms to the poor, 10*l.*

"Also to the candelabrum of St. Mary, Sedgefield, ½ mark.

"Also to the high altar there, 40*s.*

"Also to Dan John Grey, and to Dan Walter de Thirsk, Chaplains, 13*s.* 4*d.*

"Also to the Officiating Chaplain in the church of Sedgefield, 1*s.*

"Also to two Clerks, each equal, 2*s.*

"Also to the Clerks repeating the Psalter, and to the Widows for Vigils, 13*s.* 4*d.*

"Also to my brother Peter, provided he will go in my stead to the Holy Land; if not, to any other willing to undertake the journey for me, 20*l.*

"Also to any fit Chaplain, on the condition of his celebrating masses for the repose of my soul during six years, in the church of Sedgefield, 20*l.*

"Also to another Chaplain, for the same service during two years, in the same church, 10 marks.

"Also to the Holy Sepulchre, 10 marks."

Contrast this formula with that used by our early Protestant forefathers. Thus, in the will of Agnes Lambton:—

"In the name of God, amen! The 21 daye of Januarye, the yeare of o^r Lord God Alm. 1564, and in the viiith yeare of the regn of our soverayne Ladye Elizabeth, by the grace of God, &c., I, Agnes Lamton, wedo, layte wyfe of John Lamton, esquier, diseased, do make my last will and testament in maner and forme following:—Fyrst, I bequeth my soule to God, trusting only to be saved by the passion and merits of his dere Sone, Jesus Crist, my Redemer; and my body to be buried in the parish church of Pittinton, with such service as is sett forth by the Queen's Majestisselawes."

This is an explicit declaration that the testatrix died in the reformed faith; and there are many more to the same effect. Some, to express still more strongly their contempt of Popery, say, that as the body is but a vile stinking piece of earth, it is fit for nothing but the earth, and whether the earth be consecrated or not, is of no importance. All, however, are outdone by William Browne, yeoman, of Gateshead, who is just such a one as John Knox would have delighted to call his own:—

"In the name of God, amen! The xx of Maii, in the yeare of o^r Lord God 1567, I William Browne, of Gateshead, in the countye of Duresme, yeoman, callinge to remembrance the transitorie stat of man, together with the perswasions of Sathan is a enemye to the salvation of men, do not only declare this my last wylland testament, in maner as a stay to my conscience, my wyffe and chyldein, but also in few wordes the some of my profession, as a testimonie of my fliath, and confussione of the devyll. Of faith, I professe and confesse one God in trinitie; and that ther is no saviour, no mediator, nor advocat, butt onlye Jesus Christ, God and man; and thatt he also, by y^e shedding of his most precious blood, hath pacified the wrath of God, justlye conceyved against men; and that ther is no sanctification, no redemption, nor purgacion of synne, but only by the merits of the Christ's death and passion; and all other superstitions and feigned cattells onely devised to illud the symple and unlearned, as y^e vyle abuses of y^e sea of Rome, I utterly detest and abhorre."

Bravo, William Browne, of Gateshead, yeoman! On all future occasions, let the evidence of this "confessor" be placed by that of our first martyrs!

But such godly courage is not vouchsafed to every Christian; and many there are—yea, even of the clergy—who, in their departing hours, scarcely know what formula of words to adopt. One, fearful of mentioning the saints, leaves his "soul to God and to the blessed company of heaven." This was a concealed Papist. In Mary's reign, the mask is thrown away; and "St. Mary, the queen of heaven," with all the celestial host, are besought to help the departing soul. On the accession of Elizabeth, the language again becomes either prudently obscure, or fanatically bold.

But we must conclude. As we have directed the reader's attention to the most interesting parts of the volume, we leave him to judge how far the opening strictures are justified. We repeat our conviction, that not more than one tenth of the papers in the present volume should

have been selected for publication. As another part, at least, of Wills and Inventories may be expected to appear (the present volume forms Part I.), we do hope that a more discriminating judgment will preside over the choice. *This* part will never satisfy the public; nor do we think that it can have satisfied the members of the Society.

The Mascarenhas; a Legend of the Portuguese in India. By the Author of 'Prediction,' &c. Smith, Elder & Co.

Mrs. Steward has chosen a very interesting period of Indian history for the foundation of her novel; the time when the brilliant court of Aurangzeb was shedding a deceitful splendour over the crumbling empire founded by the descendants of Timur—when the Portuguese were fast losing their supremacy in the East, and when the Mahratta power was just rising into greatness. She has adhered pretty faithfully to historical verity, but her plot is needlessly intricate, and many of her imagined incidents not merely improbable, but impossible, in an Eastern country. On the other hand, she has selected many wild and wondrous incidents, from rare but authentic sources, which illustrate the habits of thought and action belonging to some of the most extraordinary of the Hindú races, especially that mysterious association of assassins, the Phansigars. The work will gratify the lovers of romance, but it will not answer the expectations of those who, besides excitement and pleasure, hope to find, in a new novel, some fresh illustration of human character, and, in a historical romance, consistency in delineating the peculiar circumstances of an age or country.

The Priors of Prague. By the Author of 'Cavendish.' 3 vols. Macrone.

THIS is a clever and amusing book, and the author has done well to come ashore: there is, we suspect, a growing impatience among the reading public of "salt-water babble"—naval character and adventure have been already fully and ably wrought out; and, as to the "slang-wang" of the service, it is worn as threadbare as the Irish brogue, or the "Doric" of Scotland.

'The Priors of Prague' is a bustling, changeable tale of adventure, whose hero, half rogue and half madman, is none other than the son of her, who lieth embalmed in her own and Horace Walpole's letters, in all the odour of wit and blue-stockings, filthy finery, and "light life and conversation"—Lady Mary Wortley Montague. Such tales of adventure, we may here remark, are as easy to write as they are pleasant to read: the author need only "keep moving," and he cannot go far wrong, if he have sense and a little piquancy in his style; happier far, in his ease and liberty, than the more painstaking unraveller of plots, who has to construct mysteries with an eye to their being cleared up, and contrive difficulties, not too mighty to be overcome at the right moment. Mr. Neale, however, by fixing upon a well-known character for his hero, declined to avail himself of one very forcible engine—the power of exciting curiosity. If he fancied himself able to dispense with this, the result proves him not to have been mistaken; for though we took up the book with indifference, we became interested in following the mazes of its adventures, and sorry to lay it down.

It is needless to recall to those who are acquainted with the memoirs of the time, the leading events of "mad Montagu's" career; and it would be unkind, by doing so, to forestall the pleasure of those who will hereafter read 'The Priors of Prague.' We shall, therefore, content ourselves with observing, that the author

has embroidered upon a ground already diversified and parti-coloured; filled chasms hitherto unfathomed, with wild adventures among all classes, "from King Cophetua down to the beggar maid"—and in all countries; breaking off in the middle of his narrative, with a "*To be continued*"—and leaving just enough of toleration and sympathy with his hero, and his faithful knave Jeremy, to make us willing to follow his steps through another three volumes. We have tender love adventures, and terrible scenes of jealousy; we learn how those can thrive whose only heritage lies in their quicksilver wits and birdlime fingers; we have snatches of satire against medicine—*vide* the group of professing physicians at Bath; and against divinity—with the slothful, sensual, haughty Mr. Longtext for illustration; humourists by the score; and villains and victims *quantum suff.* The book, in short, is lively, rattling, and readable; and if we do not give our readers a taste of its quality, it is because we feel that no mere pungent description, or sharp dialogue, can afford a fair specimen of a tale, the characteristic charm of which is variety.

On Insanity; its Nature, Causes, and Cure. By W. B. Neville, Esq., of Earl's Court. Longman.

INSANITY has for ages continued the "*opprobrium medicorum*;" and the public institutions for the reception and treatment of lunatics, a disgrace to the governments of Europe, and an outrage upon human nature. It is within our own times, and almost within the present century, that light has broken in upon this department of science, and reform lifted its timid and oft-rebuked head in the halls of our asylums. The subject itself is surrounded with difficulties and obscurities; but the extrinsic embarrassments which society has cast round their examination, are answerable for a large part of the errors which have prevailed concerning it. Connected, as the theory of insanity is, with received metaphysical doctrines concerning the normal functions of the human intellect, and with dogmas, which, though not essentials of our religious creeds, have been engrafted on them, the medical man has seldom found himself at his ease in the discussion; and having constantly before his eyes the influence of the weak and the prejudiced on professional success, he has either kept silence on the subject, or left his notions to be divined, rather than expressed them. The consequence has been, that the prevalent notions relative to the nature of the disease, to the duties of society towards the lunatic, and the consequent jurisprudence to be adopted in his case, have been formed much more largely on metaphysical, than on physiological grounds. Common sense, however, will prevail, "in the long run."—be that run as long as it may; and though, it is still fashionable to talk of mental disease, there is no longer any great danger in asserting that derangement of the functional activity of the brain is the proximate cause of insanity.

Opinion, however, in following the bent of its new career, has, perhaps, somewhat over-stepped the modesty of observation, and rushed upon certain conclusions respecting the organic seats of the disease, not sufficiently warranted by the facts from which they have been drawn. We allude to the labours of the craniologists in this department, who having endowed each particular faculty of the mind and propensity of the moral complex with "its local habitation" separate and apart, and observing that most cases of lunacy begin, at least, in a depravation of some one of these faculties or propensities, look for the seat of the malady in the organ which they believe to preside over the offending manifestation. How far this theory has been carried into

practice, we have not the opportunity of knowing; but it is not very long ago that we heard a Coryphæus of the new science boasting of the great success of an application of leeches, under the indications of his science, to particular cerebral "organs." We are far from asserting that insanity is never a primary affection of the brain, or of some one or other of its parts; nor do we inculcate, that extensive changes in the natural constitution of the tissue can occur, unaccompanied by a definite alteration in the functions of which it is the instrument; but we are inclined to believe that by far the greater number of cases of insanity depend upon diseases of remote parts, with which the brain is drawn in to sympathize; and, therefore, are satisfied, that though the whole physiologic doctrines of craniology were true, the pathological inferences would not be the less "stark naught." Of the more known derangements of cerebral activity, delirium, and not insanity, is the usual concomitant; and portions of the brain are constantly found disorganized after death, when not even partial lunacy has preceded it.

Again, the author of the work before us (himself, by the bye, a professed craniologist,) has with considerable acuteness remarked, that the peculiar hallucination in any individual case, has not necessarily an immediate connexion with the moral occasion of the malady; and, consequently, that a patient may go mad by the excitement of one craniologic organ, and be mad through the diseased activity of another: or in other words, that the absurd notion may be the symptom, without being the sign of the disease. To this purpose, he quotes, with approbation, a *dictum* of Dr. Burrows, that "a person may imbibe a religious as well as any other hallucination, and yet be deranged from another." In the case of Matthews, round which Dr. Haslam threw a temporary notoriety, the moral occasion of the disease was the overthrow of his fortune; but his hallucination was a morbid activity of the instinct of self-esteem, accompanied by a long train of ingeniously perverse reasoning on facts furnished by a previous course of dabbings in science, under the suggestions of his ideas of personal importance. Now, if we take for granted that there is such a thing as an organ of self-esteem, and believe, which might possibly be the truth, that this organ was the weak part of the brain, and, therefore, the most readily drawn in to sympathize with any other affected part, still it would not follow that the malady of this organ was the whole disease, or that any purely topical remedy should be relied on in its treatment. A long train of lunatic cases may be very obviously traced to a diseased condition of the organs of assimilation, or to those of the sexual system; and may be cured by a proper attention to such organs; and in these cases it would be the excess of absurdity to regard the hallucinations except as symptoms, or to attack them otherwise than by means addressed to the primary affection. In such cases as these, the suggestions of craniology, all luminous as they may be, are still "lights that lead astray;" and though instances may occur, in which the sympathetic nature of the insane phenomena is not so clearly ascertainable, there are reasons of another kind, not less cogent, why those lights are not, even then, to be depended upon. Whatever instruction, therefore, the morbid activity of our several faculties may yield, respecting their normal conditions, we are not inclined to believe that the doctrines of craniology will materially assist in improving the therapeutics of insanity.

With respect to the volume immediately under consideration, it is a striking illustration of the advances which have been made in the treatment of lunatics. Its real, if not its professed

object, is to draw public attention to the merits of Earl's Court House establishment for "the recovery of ladies labouring under affections of the mind"; and it is accompanied by lithographic plates illustrative of the beauties of the interior, so enticing, that if we were of the softer sex, we should be half tempted to feign insanity, to be permitted to enjoy them. Notwithstanding, however, this *ad captandum* nature of the publication, it is a very fair compendium of the popular doctrines concerning insanity; and may be read with profit by the general practitioner, and by the lawyer, who is anxious to know something more precise concerning the incidents of the class of maladies in question, than is to be collected from the dicta of the courts, and the opinions of legal writers. Insanity is one of the fields in which legal and medical minds come into frequent conflict; and it too frequently occurs, that the collision proves an incapability in the respective professors to understand each other. The axioms of the law were mostly conceived in times when the nature of insanity was wholly unknown; and almost every deduction from them is a practical error.

The most pleasing inference to be drawn from Mr. Neville's work, is the proof it affords of the increased and increasing mildness of the means adopted both for the purposes of restraint and of cure. Not only are patients treated with greater humanity, but attention is paid to the due admission of air and exercise, and to maintaining the proper temperature of asylums. A false opinion very recently subsisted, that lunatics were less susceptible to cold than the healthy; and the consequence was, that they were cruelly exposed to its inflictions. The reverse probably is the truth; and where exposure to cold has not been followed by absolute mortifications of the extremities, there can be little doubt that it has added to the sum of irritations, and prolonged the disease. The result of such ameliorations has been, a marked decrease in the proportion of the incurables. In the public asylums of Europe and America, recoveries vary from about 30 to 50 per cent. At the Retreat, near York, before 1811, they reached to 89, and since that time to 90 per cent. Dr. Burrows gives the ratio of cures, in recent instances, at about 91 per cent.; and at the Connecticut Retreat, no less than 21 out of 23 recent lunatics were restored to health. These results are the more satisfactory, inasmuch as they afford a consoling compensation for the afflicting truth, that the progress of civilization, and the growing complication of human affairs, has added largely to the numbers of the insane in any given population.

* *Colburn's Modern Novelists.*—This cheap edition already includes "Pelham," "The Disowned," "Frank Mildmay," "Brambletye House," "Granby," "O'Donnel," and "Tremaine." It is a new feature in the literary character of the age, that publishers can find a remunerating sale when they offer works of imagination and established character in shilling numbers, and when even a complete work is comprised in half-a-dozen such numbers. Mr. Colburn, we rejoice to believe, has found in his interest to pursue this system: and for those who delight only "in the substantial," he offers *Las Cases' 'Memoirs of Napoleon,'* complete in twenty numbers.

List of New Books.—Scott's *Lord of the Isles*, &c.; Rokeby and Don Roderick; Triemman, Harold, Waterloo, and other Poems, (auth. by the edit.) 24mo, each 3s. cl.; 4s. silk.—Sugden on Powers, 2 vols. royal 8vo, 6th edit. 2s. 2s.—Smith's Introduction to Physiology and Systematic Botany, new edition, with references, &c. by W. Margill, 12mo, 16 plates, 9s. cl.—Hough's *Christian Legacy*, 12mo, 5s.—Illustrations of the Botany, &c. of the Himalayan Mountains, by J. Forbes Royle, 12mo, 4to, Part IX, 2s. 4d.—Shepherd's *Law of Elections*, with the Statutes, Forms of Petitions, &c. 2nd edit. 12mo, 20s.—Lee's *Crisis*, Latin and English, 8vo, Vol. I, 13s.; Vol. II, 18s.—Young's *Lectures on Poetry*, 8vo, 10s.—*Essays on the Poem to St. John's Gospel*, by W. Johnson, 8vo, 4s.—*The Scope of Piety*, by Thos. G. Shaw, 12mo, 5s. 6d.—*Comparative View of the Tenets of the Anglican and Roman Churches*, by a Clergyman of the Church of England, 12mo, 2s. 6d.—*The Wreath*, 12mo, 2s. cl.; 3s. silk.—*Poetry of Daily Life*, 18mo, 2s. 6d.—*Droppings from the Sanctuary*, 32mo, 2s. 6d.—*Davidson's Commentary on the Old Testament*, Vol. I, 24mo, 4s.

Grey's Memoria Technica, with Lowe's *Mnemonic*, new edit. 12mo, 4s. 6d.—*Paolazzi's Italian Grammar*, 2nd edit. 12mo, 3s.—*De Morgan on the Connection of Number and Magnitude*, 8vo, 4s.—*The Art of Cookery*, by J. Mead, new edit. 12mo, 3s.—*The Revision of Religious Inquiry*, by Rev. James Martineau, 12mo, 5s.—*Biddulph's Young Churchman Armed*, 18mo, 1s.—*The Christian's Charter*, by Rev. John Sandford, 12mo, 4s.—*Painishment of Death*, (from the *Morning Herald*), Vol. I, 12mo, 6s.—*Epitaphs, or Classical Accoutrements*, by Dr. McIntyre, 12mo, 5s. 6d.—*Sadler's Abridgement of Lingard's England*, 2 vols, 12mo, 12s.—*Geography Ruled*, or the *Pilgrims of Love*, by John Graham, 8vo, 3s.—*The Dublin Penny Journal*, 12mo, 7s. 6d.—*Library on Private Education*, 8vo, 10s. 6d.—*Smith and Hooker's Compendium of English Flora*, in English, 12mo, 7s. 6d.—*Trevor's Life and Times of William the Third*, Vol. II, 8vo, 12s.—*Motion on Vendors and Purchasers of Chattels Personal*, 14s.—*Hindmarch's Supplement to Deacon's Criminal Law*, 8s.—*How to Observe: Geology*, by H. T. De la Beche, 2nd edit. 8vo, 10s. 6d.—*The Three Eras of Woman's Life*, by Elizabeth E. Smith, 2 vols., 11s. 6d.—*Memoir of the Rev. John Burckhardt*, 12mo, 4s.—*West India Scenery*, with Illustrations of Negro Character, by R. Bridgeport, Part I, 10s.—*Remarks on the Elements of Language*, by T. Borthwick, 8vo, 3s.—*Ireland: its Wants and Capabilities*, by Donald Bain, 12mo, 3s.—*The Theory and Practice of Joint Stock Banking*, by Peter Watt, 8vo, 3s.—*The History of Brazil*, by John Armitage, Esq. 2 vols, 8vo, 11s. 4s.—*Rev. J. J. Blount's Sermons at Cambridge: A sketch of the Church*, &c. 8vo, 6s. 6d.—*Cater's Laws, Regulations, and Water-side Practice of the Customs*, 7s.—*Alison's History of Europe*, Vol. V, 8vo, 15s.—*Plans, &c. of Domestic Buildings executed in the Castellated and other Styles*, 2nd edition, 25 plates, imp. 4to, coloured, by R. Lugaz, 2s. 12s. 6d.—*Nichols's Historical Notices of Fonthill and its Abbey*, 4to, small paper, 11s.; large, 8vo.—*Sir John Malcolm's Life of Lord Clive*, 8 vols, 8vo, 2s. 2s.—*Walsh's Greek and Turkish Revolution*, 2 vols, 8vo, 11s. 12s.—*A Sanitar in Belgium*, 8vo, 10s. 6d.—*Philip on the Love of the Spirit in his Work*, 10mo, 3s. 6d.—*Stewart's Letters to Channing*, with Essay, by Rev. G. F. Plumptre, 8vo, 10s.—*Mortality*, 2nd edit. 8vo, 10s.—*Flower's Offering to the Younger Members of the Church of England*, 12mo, 2s.—*Lectures by George Payne*, 8vo, 10s. 6d.—*Protestantism in Spain*, 12mo, 1s.—*Stories for Holiday Evening*, by Mrs. Child, 8vo, 2s. 6d.—*History of England for Young Historians*, 18mo, 3s. 6d.—*The Tell Tale*, by Miss Leslie, 18mo, 1s. 6d.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

It having been announced that "engraved views of the intended elevation of the Houses of Parliament, as approved from the plan of Mr. Barry," will be given in other Journals, we are authorized to state, that Mr. Barry has neither supplied drawings to any Journal, except the *Athenæum*, or given permission to any person to make drawings for any other Journal; and that if drawings have been made, it was without his knowledge or consent. For reasons heretofore stated, we may add, that it is wholly impossible, on wood, to do justice to the design, or we should, of course, have saved ourselves the very heavy expense of having it engraved on steel—twice engraved indeed, for, to meet the extraordinary demand, and ensure good impressions, we have found it necessary to have a duplicate plate of the *Perspective View*. The *Block Plan*, showing the leading principles of the Arrangement of the Principal Floor, together with the *Description of the Building*, will of course appear in the body of the paper. As the latter will be critical as well as descriptive, we hardly need say, that it will not be written by Mr. Barry, or under his dictation. That gentleman has, indeed, obligingly offered to furnish all the information required, but the writer reserves to himself perfect liberty to enter into a full investigation of the whole subject, and to express such opinions as that investigation may induce.

There must be surely some relation between the bitter winds, which, as some old writer quaintly says, have been "eating out the heart of the spring," and the slackness which our publishers have shown in putting forth their literary fruits and flowers. Lists of new books, *nearly ready*, have been constantly budding forth, but they are slow in coming into blossom. Among the promises not hitherto pointed out to our readers' notice, we should mention Von Raumer's 'History of the Fall of Poland,' the work whose publication was forbidden by the Prussian government on account of the liberality of its opinions; the Professor is also about to continue his contributions to *Modern History*, the second volume of which will contain papers relating to Frederick the Great and his times. From Mr. Crofton Croker we are to look for 'The French Invasions of Ireland,' illustrated by popular songs. Three or four books of travels, also, are announced by Mr. Murray, which should prove interesting; those by Mr. Pashley, in Crete, the Rev. C. Wordsworth's 'Classical Tour in Attica, and Residence in Athens,' Mr. Gally Knight's 'Architectural Tour in Normandy,' and 'Portugal and Galicia,' described from Notes of a Journey in those Countries, by an English nobleman; of a lighter staple, but no less pleasant, will be the forthcoming work by Mr. Bowles, 'Scenes and Shadows of Days Departed.' Our readers will also be glad to hear, that the Letters of Charles Lamb, with a sketch of his life, by Mr. Serjeant Talfourd, are in the press, and that the author of 'Philip Van Artevelde' promises us another work; whether of prose or verse we have not heard, called 'The Statesman.' Mr. Bentley's list contains some announcements of promise; among these, are 'The Posthumous Memoirs of Sir Nathaniel Wraxall,' Major Skinner's 'Adventures during an Overland Journey to England,' 'The Lives of Celebrated Women,' edited by Mr. James, and one from which much may be expected, 'The Progress of England during the last Seven Governments,' by Mr. Fonblanque. We are glad, too, to see Mrs. Howitt's prose work, 'Wood Leighton,' advertised as 'just ready.' Mrs. Calcott has a series of Essays towards the History of Painting in the press.

Musical wonders will never cease; and, in the present magnetic state of Paris and London, which capitals certainly attract all the wandering talent of Europe, scarcely a week may be expected to pass without bringing us something more extraordinary than its predecessor. We have heard of a wonder on the clarinet, Signor Liverani, who enchanted the world at Caradori's Concert on Wednesday week. We have given our first impressions of Thalberg, that wonder on the pianoforte, and we have now to speak of a wonder on the violin, M. Ole Bull, whom we heard at a rehearsal on Thursday last, at the Opera House. It will not do to say that this very superior artist surpasses Paganini, because the latter originated the style and school of which the former is merely a disciple, though perhaps its cleverest. In some points of his *mécanique*, M. Bull is original. We shall probably have to offer a more strictly critical analysis of his performance; in the meantime we can express our thorough admiration of his beauty of tone, and wonderful facility of execution. Some day or other we shall say a word or two upon the effect which the increase of this school of violin-playing may be expected to have upon instrumental composition and orchestral performance.

We learn with pleasure that the valuable collection of original measured sketches of the monuments of Italy, Sicily, and Egypt, made by the late Mr. Henry Parke, architect, during his travels in those countries, are now deposited in the Institute of British Architects, where they are to be bound up in volumes. They consist of between five and six hundred drawings, some of them drawn out to a scale, and many finished off in a most masterly style in chalk and Indian ink. The naval drawings, paintings, and sketches, as also his more elaborately finished Egyptian views, which were among the happiest delineations of these subjects ever made by either his own or any other pencil, are to be submitted to the hammer by Sotheby, on the 19th, and will, doubtless, be purchased with avidity.

We have heard, and almost with regret, though the change will, we presume, be beneficial to the officer personally, that the Royal Geographical Society are about to lose the valuable services of Captain Maconochie, who has accepted the appointment of Secretary to Sir John Franklin, the new Governor of Van Dieman's Land.

LAWRENCE GALLERY.

THE EIGHTH EXHIBITION of Drawings, consisting of the Works of Albert Durer and Titian, is NOW OPEN. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

THE NINTH EXHIBITION, the unique Collection of Drawings by Raffaele Urbino, will open immediately after the closing of the present Exhibition, which will take place at the end of the Month.

112, St. Martin's-lane.

S. & A. WOODBURN.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

JUST OPEN, TWO PICTURES, painted by Le Chevalier Bouton. The Subjects are, the VILLAGE of ALAGNA, in Piedmont, and the INTERIOR of the CHURCH of SANTA CRUCE, at Florence. The Village is first seen by moonlight, surrounded by its peaked mountains, with a lake in the foreground, formed by the melting of the snow; the lights from the distant houses are reflected upon its surface—the avalanches sweeping from their lofty summits, overwhelm the village. The coming day reveals the scene of desolation; and the simple spire alone remains as evidence of what hath been. The merits of the second Picture, the interior of the Church of Santa Croce, at Florence, are so well known as to render detail unnecessary;—it exhibits all the effects of light and shade, from noon-day till midnight.—Open from 10 till 5.

EXHIBITION of the EMPEROR CHARLEMAGNE'S BIBLE, at the COSMORAMA ROOMS, 209, REGENT-STREET.—This splendid and magnificent MANUSCRIPT, the most ancient of the Latin Version of the Holy Scriptures, by St. Jerome, now in existence, and written upon vellum by Alcuin Abbot, an Englishman, is worthy the attention of the most learned and religious, as not only the most superb and most authentic relic (in the world) of antiquity, history, and Christianity, but as the finest and oldest landmark in the annals of paleography, diplomatica, and art.—Open at 209, Regent-street, from Ten till Dusk.—Admission, 1s.

The Scientific GAME OF CHESS WITH LIVING CHARACTERS, at the LOWTHER ROOMS, KING WILLIAM-STREET, GRAND.—The Games will commence at Two o'clock in the afternoon, and half-past Seven in the evening.—Circle, 5s.; Second, 2s. 6d.

HOURLY METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the SUMMER SOLSTICE, made at FELDHAUSEN, near WYNBERG, CAPE of GOOD HOPE, on the 21st and 22nd of December, 1835, by SIR JOHN F. W. HERSCHEL.

Day & hour Astronomi- cally reckoned. (M. T.) 1835.	Barometer as Read off.	Temp. of Mercury in Barometer.	External Thermometers.		Actinometer.		Wind.		Esti- mated quantity of BlueSky.	STATE OF CLOUDS, WEATHER IN GENERAL, STARS, &c. At the Times of Observation.	
			Dry.	Wet.	Effect of Solar Radiation.	Time of Observation (M. T.)	Direction.	Force.			
Dec. 20. h. m.	English. in. dec.	Fahr. ° dec.	Fahr. ° dec.	Fahr. ° dec.	Arbit. Scale. ° dec.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.			
18 0	29.834	67.9	63.0	58.0	11.12	17 32			0	3	Fine clear sky to S and SW, but dull and streaky northwards.
19 0	29.840	67.4	66.5	60.8	18.70	18 11			0	0	Cirrus streaks, and a thin veil of Cirri, slowly rising and increasing from NW.
20 0	29.839	67.5	68.1	61.0	24.32	19 17			0	2	The Cirri have attained the region of the Sun, and begin to affect the actinometer.
21 0	29.836	67.9	70.4	62.1	27.30	20 13	SE	1	0	3	Cirri, as before.
22 0	29.836	68.0	72.2	62.4	36.58	21 12	SE	1	1	9	Cirri, in visible streaks and patches, over the region of the Sun, sensibly affecting the actinometer, and rendering its indications irregular.
23 0	29.836	68.0	73.5	64.0	37.98	22 16	SE	1	1	9	Tolerably clear in SW. Much Cirrus elsewhere. Zenith covered.
Dec. 21. 0 0	29.824	68.0	73.9	64.4	35.75	23 17	SSE	3	6	6	Much irregular Cirrus on Sun. Actinometer fluctuated in consequence from 21.10 to 22.70, as the Cirri slowly drifted across it.
1 0	29.825	68.5	74.7	66.0	38.17	0 13	Do.	2	8	8	Cirri diminishing. They now lie chiefly S and SE. Zenith clear.
2 0	29.824	68.5	74.5	64.0	41.48	0 21	Do.	3	9	9	Much white glare about, and some Cirrus on, the Sun. Much more in its neighbourhood.
3 0	29.829	68.5	73.5	65.0	39.75	0 37	Do.	4	9	9	Cirri nearly all dissolved. A few linger in the East.
4 0	29.822	68.5	71.4	64.5	39.42	1 25	Do.	4	9	9	No Cirrus on the Sun, but a strong whitish glare all about it.
5 0	29.828	68.3	69.3	62.8	4.15	2 17	Do.	5	1	9	A small patch of lingering Cirrus behind the Table Mountain (above it in level).
6 0	29.854	68.5	67.2	64.8	32.05	3 10	Do.	5	7	9	Cirri thickening up from NW aloft, and breeze freshening below from SE. Much white glare about the Sun, and when examined through a pale brown glass, the edge of a Cirrus cloud is seen to be very near the disc.
7 0	29.876	68.3	65.4	61.0	4.10	4 11	Do.	5	8	8	Cirri again swept slowly away to the SSE. A few fresh ones keep coming up from behind the Table Mountain, at a much higher level than its summit.
8 0	29.872	68.2	64.8	60.3			Do.	5	8	8	The sky rapidly purifying from remains of Cirri, in region of the Sun.
9 0	29.870	68.2	65.0	60.2			Do.	5	8	8	Cirri low down in horizon. Sky elsewhere pure. The neighbourhood of the Sun less affected with white glare than at any hour previous. The Sun is now hot, and the blue of daylight is too strong for the eyes.
10 0	29.875	68.5	64.0	60.0			Do.	5	8	8	No Cirrus on the Sun, but a great glare, and whitish patches, indicating impurity, in all the region around it.
11 0	29.876	68.5	63.2	59.0			Do.	5	8	8	But little Cirrus visible, and that chiefly to SW.
12 0	29.883	68.5	62.0	58.0			Do.	5	8	8	Cirri drifting rapidly aloft, from NW to SE, and passing near, perhaps grazing the Sun. A great quantity of diffuse glare round Sun. As the wind aloft increases, the Cirri begin to assume a foamy appearance, mixed with occasional crescent-like forms, concave to the wind. Meanwhile the lower current along the ground is steadily SSE.
13 0	29.856	68.5	62.7	58.4			Do.	5	8	8	Rapidly clouding with Cirrostratus from NW. The cloud-level descends, and the tops of the Table and Devil Mountains are dimmed with vapour.
14 0	29.844	68.3	61.3	57.5			Do.	5	8	8	Actinometer observed in feeble gleams of sunshine struggling through the advancing and thickening cl.
15 0	29.832	68.1	61.2	57.3			Do.	5	8	8	Much clearer. A high mackerel cloud, with an evident upper current from W.
16 0	29.833	68.0	60.7	57.3			Do.	5	8	8	Sun just free from the edge of a high mackerel cloud, drifting from W. Sky clearing generally and rapidly.
17 10	29.836	68.0	60.7	57.0	1.55	17 0					A great mass of cloud now piled on the Table M. The SE current strong below, the Western one aloft evidently subdued, and veering by the impulse of the lower one round to the South, from which quarter the clouds now drift along not over the mountain.
					3.00	17 7					The upper and lower currents evidently drawing together, the upper coming round from NW by W to S, and the lower, which on the surface is SE or SSE, assuming a more southerly direction at a higher level. In consequence, the mass of clouds drifts northward along the mountain, while struggling patches fit in the same direction across the zenith, and even along the eastern hemisph.
					8.75	17 31					The upper clouds remain more stationary, the lower drift rapidly northwards.
					10.98	17 41					Clouds thinly broken over zenith. Mass drifting northward along the mountain.
18 0	29.845	68.0	63.5	59.0			Do.	1	10	10	Entirely clouded. Wind rising.
19 0	29.860	68.0	65.2	59.7			Do.	3	2	2	Stars pretty clear towards the East.
20 2	29.860	68.1	66.8	60.3			Do.	3	10	10	Stars clear in all quarters.
21 0	29.854	68.2	68.7	61.0			Do.	3	10	10	Beautiful starlight night.
22 0	29.845	68.3	70.7	60.2			Do.	1	10	10	Stars superb. Definition in telescope excellent.
23 0	29.844	68.3	73.3	61.8			Do.	1	10	10	Ditto. Ditto. A touch of cloud on the Devil Mountain.
Dec. 22. 0 0	29.830	68.4	74.0	63.2			Do.	2	10	10	Ditto. Ditto. Now and then a transient haze.
1 0	29.818	68.6	74.1	63.0			Do.	2	10	10	Ditto. Ditto. An occasional flying cloud in E. horizon, travelling northward.
2 0	29.804	68.8	75.0	62.3			Do.	2	10	10	Ditto. Ditto. At 15h. 40m. twilight began.
3 0	29.790	68.8	75.0	63.1			Do.	2	10	10	Sun just clear of the Hottentot Holland Mountains, and the thin fleecy layer of cloud which caps them.
4 10	29.781	68.8	72.1	62.4			Do.	2	10	10	Sun gaining brightness. Can no longer be looked at.
5 0	29.790	69.0	73.8	64.3			Do.	2	10	10	Glorious morning. South-east breeze balmy and delicious.
6 0	29.802	69.0	75.5	60.5			Do.	2	10	10	Sun begins to feel warm.
7 5	29.830	69.0	75.8	60.0			Do.	2	10	10	Ditto.
8 0	29.832	69.0	76.5	59.0			Do.	2	10	10	Drilliantly pure and serene sky. Only over the lower (southern) part of the Table range, from Constantia up to the main bank, a dense fleecy cloud pours towards (or from the W.), indicating a W wind on the other side of the hill.—N.B. This difference of winds on the opposite sides of the Table range is very common, and is the cause of many peculiarities of this climate.
9 0	29.836	69.0	76.8	58.5			Do.	2	10	10	Two observations of the Actinometer gave 17.5 and 19.4, but were rejected on discovering the cause, viz. the two penumbrae of a small forked dead branch, which I had not noticed when placing the instrument.
							Do.	2	10	10	Sun now feels hot, and shade becomes desirable.
							Do.	2	10	10	The fleecy cloud still pouring over the mountain (as above, 15h.). A slight flock or two now appears on the main bank, which pours over like the rest, dissolving as it descends.
							Do.	2	10	10	Edge of a great Cirro-cumulus close to, but not on, the Sun.
							Do.	2	10	10	Sun wholly involved in the cloud, but still it casts a shadow.
							Do.	2	10	10	A conflict of winds commencing. Here it is N, but on the flats to the E it is evidently still SE.
							Do.	2	10	10	The struggle is marked by a belt of Cirro-cumuli, where the winds mix, curiously moving in intricate eddies—but all finally drifted from W to E.
							Do.	2	10	10	No cloud on or near Sun, but a great glare 10 or 15 degrees round it.
							Do.	2	10	10	Great Cirro-cumuli over the mountain.
							Do.	2	10	10	No cloud on or near Sun, but a great degree of white glare.
							Do.	2	10	10	Cirro-cumuli to SE.
							Do.	2	10	10	Rather less white glare about Sun. No cloud near.
							Do.	2	10	10	The brown glass shows a faint Cirrus forming on the Sun.
							Do.	2	10	10	Cirrus gone off, but another approaches, and rapidly increases in size and density. A general formation of Cirro-cumuli going on.
							Do.	2	10	10	Patches of blue sky, chiefly in SE, among Cirro-cumuli. Wind aloft feeble, N or NW. Below, variable, from N and S alternately. Sun too much clouded for actinometer.
23 0	29.844	68.3	73.3	61.8			Do.	2	2	2	Upper wind feeble NW. Cirro-cumuli in great masses, distributed over all but S and SE quarters.
Dec. 22. 0 0	29.830	68.4	74.0	63.2			SSE	2	5	5	Cirri near, but not on, Sun. Actinometer gave 33.75 when the edge of a faint Cirrus was on Sun.
1 0	29.818	68.6	74.1	63.0			Do.	5	5	5	Clouds in and near zenith. Sun clouded. Wind, for the last hour, in gusts (=6) and lulls.
2 0	29.804	68.8	75.0	62.3			Do.	6	7	7	Sky clearing rapidly as the gusts freshen from the SE, and the lulls grow less frequent.
3 0	29.790	68.8	75.0	63.1			Do.	6	9	9	Remarkable conflict of NW and SE winds. The latter sweep over the flats, and all the clouds dissolve as it gains strength. The former still persists in driving voluminous clouds over the lower parts of the T. Mountain as far as Constantia, while some fleecy portions pour over the main bank and curl round the peak of the Devil Mountain.
4 10	29.781	68.8	72.1	62.4			Do.	5	8	8	The NW cloud pours in huge cottony bales over the lower parts of the Table Range. Then comes a zone of clear blue parallel to the range; then a belt of fine reticulated Cirro-cumuli, through whose western edge the Sun, viewed through the brown glass, appears encircled with a double coloured halo.
5 0	29.790	69.0	73.8	64.3			Do.	5	6	6	The whole W hemisphere now thickly overcast, and finely mackerelled banks, mixed with Cirrus, are drifting E and S, high above level of the mountain. Sun obscured.
6 0	29.802	69.0	75.5	60.5			Do.	4	3	3	Clouds advancing thick and rapidly from W. Devil and Table Mountains still clear.
7 5	29.830	69.0	75.8	60.0			Do.	4	3	3	Clouds still high, but threaten rain.
8 0	29.832	69.0	76.5	59.0			Do.	1	8	8	Clouds of a yellowish rainy appearance. They move very slowly, more from N than W.
9 0	29.836	69.0	76.8	58.5			Do.	1	10	10	Sky clears rapidly. Moon's dark limb most distinct.
							Do.	1	10	10	perfectly clear starlight. Stars in 20 feet beautifully defined and tranquil.

Height of the Station at Feldhausen above level of the floor of the Circle Room at the Royal Observatory C. G. H. = 114 feet.—Height of the Observatory above the mean Sea level, approximately taken, presumed about 30 feet.—The Barometer used is uncorrected. It requires a correction of +0.077 in. to reduce its readings to those of the Standard Barometer used for the Circle Observations at the Observatory, and a correction of +0.071 in. to reduce to the standard of the Royal Society, by Daniell.—The dry external Thermometer-readings all require to be corrected by —1.5°; those of the wet by —0.4°.—The direction of the Wind can scarcely ever be correctly judged of at this Station, owing to Trees and other local causes of disturbance.—[For the corresponding table of Observations made at the Royal Society, see ATHENÆUM, p. 11.]

MR. DANIEL SHEA.

We feel sincere regret in announcing the death of this gentleman, the translator of Mirkhond, and one of the professors of oriental languages at Haylebury, on Tuesday last, in the 65th year of his age. Mr. Shea was born in Dublin, and entered the Irish University in early youth; he soon became distinguished for his classical attainments, and obtained a scholarship. The road to fame and fortune seemed now open to him, but the unhappy circumstances of the time blighted his prospects at the moment they seemed fairest. It is too well known, that the dreams of liberty, suggested by the dawn of the French Revolution, induced many persons to unite in projects for the improving the government of their country—plans in which indiscretion was as strongly manifested as patriotism. Some of Mr. Shea's dearest friends joined the Society of United Irishmen, and, though he never belonged to that body, many of its projects became known to him in the confidence of private friendship. The Earl of Clare, Chancellor of the University, held a visitation, and required the students severally to make oath not only that they did not belong to the United Irishmen, but that they would give information against all who, to their knowledge, had any connexion with that association. Mr. Shea was among the recusants, and, of course, compelled to resign his scholarship, and quit College. He now came to England, without money or friends, and, after many disappointments, obtained a situation as an assistant in a private school. He was subsequently recommended to a merchant, anxious to obtain the assistance of an Italian scholar, and was appointed chief clerk of a large mercantile establishment in Malta, where he applied himself so diligently to the study of the Arabic language, that he became a complete master both of the classical and chief common dialects. His employers, intending to open a factory on the eastern side of the Black Sea, Mr. Shea began to study Persian, and soon conquered its difficulties; but circumstances induced the firm which employed him to withdraw from the Mediterranean and Levant trade, and he returned to England, where he obtained a situation as private tutor. The late Dr. Adam Clarke, hearing of his Oriental attainments, sought his acquaintance, and generously exerted himself to make Mr. Shea's acquirements known. He was, in consequence, offered an Assistant Professorship at Haylebury, which he at first refused, but finally accepted.

When the Oriental Translation Fund was instituted, Mr. Shea became a member of the Committee, and applied himself diligently to translating Mirkhond's History of the early Kings of Persia, which he published about two years ago. It has been warmly praised, both for spirit and fidelity, by the best Oriental scholars in Great Britain and on the Continent; and we can say, from a long use of the book, that we have never seen any version at once so useful to the Persian student, and so interesting to the general reader. He was engaged in a more important task, the translation of the Dabistân, and had made considerable progress at the time of his decease.

A kinder friend, a better-hearted man, never breathed. The writer of this slight tribute to his merits has known him, on many occasions, submit to great personal inconvenience that he might relieve others whose necessities he deemed greater than his own. It is said, that he has directed his executors to destroy his manuscripts, which we know to have been numerous and valuable; we trust that an exception will be made, at least in favour of the Dabistân, for it is scarcely to be hoped that any other person will be found willing and competent to undergo the drudgery of translating that very interesting, but, also, very difficult work.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

May 9.—Sir John Barrow in the chair.—Two papers were read, viz. 'Observations on the Ancient Intercourse between India and Europe,' by Lieutenant Dickinson, 14th regiment B.N.I., communicated by the Bombay Branch Society. 2. 'Account of the Federation of Central America,' communicated by Colonel Galindo.

1. Lieutenant Burnes, in a recent communication to the Society, hazarded an opinion that the ancient navigation of the Indian seas had not been exclusively in the hands of the Arabs, as is usually thought; but had been maintained, in some degree, also by the Native Indians. In support of this opinion, he adduced the facts, that to this day the vessels of the latter exhibit a rudeness which seems to belong to a very early period; that their maps and charts are alike unimproved; that, notwithstanding, their commerce and coasting communications are very widely extended; that, in some of their lines of trade their religious opinions and practices are severely outraged, yet without driving them away; and that even the rajpoots, the proudest and most indolent of their castes, are thus found engaged. Lieutenant Dickinson, in the present paper, controverts this opinion; and endeavours to show that other facts may be adduced which prove its fallacy.

First, among the Indian castes there is none of sailors; and, on the contrary, many of their sacred books speak of such as being necessarily men of desperate circumstances and character. Again, no ancient author speaks of Indian ships; nor was Nearchus able to procure Indian pilots; while the part taken by the Arabs in maintaining an intercourse with the Indian coasts is, on the contrary, matter of direct testimony. At a very early period, also, Arabs were found settled in Ceylon; but no mention is anywhere made of Hindoos in Arabia or Africa, until comparatively a modern period. The sacred historians all point to the Arabs as the carriers of Indian produce to Judea; and nowhere is even the slightest allusion to be found to the actual presence, in the West, of the people from whose countries in the East the highly-prized productions of the Indian coasts were brought. In a word, every form of testimony, Lieutenant Dickinson contends, is against Lieutenant Burnes's conclusion; and modern writers of repute, as Robertson, Vincent, Chardin, &c. are, in consequence, without exception, against him.

2. The Federation of Central America is composed of the five commonwealths of Costa-Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Salvador, and Guatemala; and is governed by a president and two houses of assembly, called the Senate and Congress. Its natural limits are the narrowest part of the Isthmus of Panama on the one hand, and the Isthmus of Tehuantepec on the other; but its political limits are more confined.

The country included within the limits of the Federation is of great beauty and fertility. It is, for the most part, of moderate elevation, descending on either side to the sea. It is traversed by a central ridge, the continuation of the great chain known in South America by the name of Andes, and to the northward as the Rocky Mountains; but within the limits of the Federation this is almost cut across in two places by transversal valleys, in one of which is the Lake of Nicaragua, and in the other the plain of Comayagua. It does not preserve any parallelism to the coast, but serpentine about, now approaching one, and now the other sea. Its composition is primary and metalliferous; and, according to the elevation of its several parts, its vegetable productions are tropical, or of the temperate zones. Its base is skirted by a fringe of alluvium of the highest richness and fertility.

A number of occasionally active volcanoes skirt the Pacific shore of the Republic; but none are found on the Atlantic side. Some of them exceed in height any part of the central ridge; and one attains an elevation of 12,620 feet. This, however, has never emitted fire from its crater, but only torrents of water and stones; the others have been more destructive; and that of Cosiguina, in particular, has very lately been extraordinarily active.

Central America is distinguished above Mexico by its fine harbours; and not less by the unbounded toleration of its government. While in Mexico only Roman Catholics are allowed to hold land, or otherwise enjoy the full rights of citizens, here even the Paganism of the Indians is under the protection of the law. Many Protestants are thus already settled in the country, and their number increases daily.

The population of the Federation is almost two millions, thus distributed:

	Indians.	Whites.	Mixed.	Total.
Costa-Rica	25,000	125,000	150,000
Nicaragua	120,000	110,000	120,000	350,000
Honduras	60,000	240,000	300,000
Salvador	70,000	70,000	210,000	350,000
Guatemala	450,000	100,000	150,000	700,000
Federal District	20,000	10,000	20,000	50,000
	685,000	475,000	740,000	1,900,000

Of African blacks there are scarcely any in Central America; and the mixed race, between the white and Indian, is so fair as scarcely to be distinguishable from the white. The Indians in the state of Guatemala preserve, to a great degree, their original languages and customs; but in the other states they speak Spanish, and are blended in their habits with the mass of the population. In general, the different races live in much harmony, the Indians being universally well affected to the government, and also, on the whole, preferring their white, to their mixed, fellow subjects. A singular excess is observable in the birth of white and mixed females over males, the former being to the latter in the proportion of between five and six to four; and this is the more remarkable, as the disproportion in other parts of America has been found not less, but the other way.

There are twenty-nine cities in Central America; and twelve principal ports, of which six are in the Caribbean sea and gulf of Honduras, and six on the Pacific. They are all governed by municipalities. A company has been recently established to encourage Immigration; and an extensive tract of land has been placed by government at its disposal, for the promotion of its views. Great encouragement is also extended to the erection of schools, and, in particular, to the acquisition of the English language. The government is desirous of extending and confirming the intercourse with this country.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 11.—Mr. Lyell, President, in the chair. A paper, by Mr. Murchison, was read, on the Dudley and Wolverhampton Coal-field, and on the formations connected with it; followed by a description of the Lickey Quartz Rock.

This is one of a series of papers, in which the author has described the structure of the border counties of England and Wales, and the southern part of the Principality.

The great coal-field of Dudley and Wolverhampton, the most productive in the central part of England, is geologically distinguished by the total absence of the mountain limestone, and the old red sandstone, which form the fundamental rocks of so many of the coal tracts of Great Britain. In a previous memoir, the author showed that the visible portion of this field is surrounded by the lower divisions of the new red sandstone series, which probably overlap and conceal, to the eastward of the exposed strata, numerous rich beds of coal.

The formations which constitute the sub-strata of the district, are known only by their irregular protrusion through the coal measures near Sedgely and Dudley, and through the new red sandstone at Walsall; or by having been reached in some of the deepest pits. These rocks belong to the system to which Mr. Murchison has given the name of Silurian, and compose the greater part of the border counties, with Caermarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

The structure of the coal-field is first described, and shown to consist of two series of strata; the upper characterized by the presence of the "ten yard or Dudley coal," the lower by numerous layers of argillaceous carbonate of iron, and called by the colliers "the iron-stone measures," and from which is obtained the celebrated Stourbridge fire-clay. The former occurs in the centre of the coal-field around Dudley, Bilston, Wednesbury, Netherton, &c.; and the latter at its southern and northern extremities, including the country immediately to the east of Wolverhampton.

The fossils hitherto discovered in the principal workings, are land plants and fresh-water shells; but in the lower, or iron-stone measures, have been found the remains of fishes, *Megalichthys Hibbertii*, *M. sauroides*, *Diptodus gibbus*, &c., thus establishing

an identity with the fossils of Burdie House, near Edinburgh. In the coal-field of North Staffordshire the same fishes have been also obtained by Sir Philip Egerton, and in that of Coalbrook-dale by Mr. Prestwich; but in the Dudley field no alternations of marine with fresh-water testacea have been observed, and, therefore, Mr. Murchison infers that the coal measures of the district under review were accumulated exclusively in fresh water.

The strata belonging to the Silurian system present dome-shaped or irregular masses, and from the position which they occupy, it would have been impossible to determine their relative antiquity, had not the author previously studied similar deposits in districts where the order of super-position is well displayed; and if the organic remains had not afforded abundant facilities for comparison and identification.

The strata belong to the two upper divisions of the Silurian system, the Ludlow rocks, and the Wenlock limestone. The former, consisting of limestone overlaid by thin bedded sandstones, are displayed at three points, Sedgeley, Turner's Hill, and the Hayes; and the Wenlock limestone occurs near Dudley, forming the Wren's Nest, the Castle Hill, and Hurst Hill; and on the eastern side of the coal-field it constitutes the district on which stands the town of Walsall. It has been also found beneath the coal measures. This deposit has been hitherto called the Dudley limestone, and has been long distinguished by the number and beauty of its organic remains; but the author has changed the name to Wenlock limestone, as, from the position which it occupies near Dudley, its place in the geological series cannot be determined without reference to other districts, while, in the neighbourhood of Wenlock, its true position is fully displayed.

The quartz rock of the Lower Lickey Hills is next described, and proved to be the oldest formation in the district belonging to that division of the Silurian system to which the author has applied the name of Caradoc sandstone. The hills form a narrow ridge, about three miles long, but not exceeding 500 feet in height. The quartz rock, of which they are composed, the author conceives to be an altered sandstone, which has been acted upon by trap, having observed that the equivalent sandstone in the Wrekin, Caer Caradoc, &c., assumes the same hard quartzose character whenever it is in the vicinity of trap rocks.

A minute description is afterwards given of the trap rocks, both with respect to their mineral composition and the effects which they have produced on the physical features of the district. To their agency the author ascribes the protrusion of the Silurian rocks, the great lines of fissure which traverse the country, the faults which affect the coal measures, and the elevation of the coal-field itself through the covering of new red sandstone, which once extended over the area now occupied by it; and, in conclusion, he adverts to the arguments which he had advanced on previous occasions respecting the probable existence of great deposits of coal beneath the new red sandstone in parts which have not been exposed by volcanic agency, or hitherto examined; and he expresses great satisfaction in Mr. Prestwich having advocated similar opinions in the paper lately read before the Society on the Coal-field of Coalbrook Dale.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

May 3.—This was the first day on which the meeting was held at 3 o'clock, and it was attended by a large number of Fellows and visitors.—T. A. Knight, Esq., President, in the chair.—a paper by whom was read on the means of destroying the red spider in the melon frame. The exhibition of flowers, &c. was uncommonly good, and in consequence of arrangements which have been made respecting the displays at these meetings, they will, no doubt, prove very attractive throughout the season. Some of the articles were particularly interesting, and medals were bestowed for them; a new medal, called the Knightian, the die of which is now in preparation, was for the first time awarded. The exhibitions on which distinctions were conferred, were, the fine specimen of the fruit of *Musa Cavendishi*, 3½ feet high, from the Duke of Devonshire; the *Hovea Celsi*, from Edmund Johnston, Esq.; the *Oncidium altissimum*, from William Harrison, Esq.; the Perfection Geranium,

from Mr. Dennis; the *Helonias bullata*, from Mrs. Marryat, and the *Arbutus procerca*, from Mr. Glenny.

It was announced that the first meeting at the Society's garden would take place on Saturday, the 14th inst. (this day).

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—May 2.—Lieut.-Col. Sykes, Vice President, in the chair. A great number of rare and interesting insects were exhibited by various members, including a large collection of specimens obtained from raw turpentine, by Mr. Raddon, amongst which was an extraordinary hermaphrodite *Lucanus*. A number of works were presented by various American, Continental, and English authors. The following memoirs were then read:—1. Entomological notices, by W. Spence, Esq., F.R.S., including 'Observations upon, and suggestions for obviating the great annual expenditure caused in Brussels by the attacks of some of the timber-boring Beetles in the wood-work of houses;' also, 'Observations upon the injury caused by the *Scolytus destructor* to the Elm-trees in the Park at Brussels;' also 'Upon a disease to which Silk-worms are subject in Italy, termed the Muscadine, and which is proved to be caused by the growth, within and upon the bodies of these caterpillars, of a minute parasitic fungus,' thus affording, as the Rev. Edward Stanley noticed, an analogy and a clue to a solution of the difficulties connected with the nature of the vegetable wasp of Surinam. 2. 'Descriptions of a new genus, and several new species belonging to the Coleopterous family *Passidæ*, from the collection of M. H. Gory, of Paris,' by J. O. Westwood, F.L.S., Secretary of the Society. 3. 'Extracts (relating to the *Annulosa*) from a memoir upon the comparative development of the nervous system of the various classes of animals with that of the human subject, illustrated by a beautiful series of preparations and drawings,' by John Anderson, Esq., of Richmond. 4. 'Notice of the destruction of the Canes in the West Indies by the Mole Cricket,' communicated by J. C. Johnstone, Esq., M.E.S. of Grenada, and which, upon the motion of Col. Sykes, was referred to the Canes-fly Committee of the Entomological Society. A discussion upon the various subjects brought before the meeting occupied the attention of the members until a late hour.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	Geographical Society (Anniversary) One, P.M.
	Statistical Society Eight.
TUES.	Horticultural Society Three.
	Civil Engineers Eight.
WED.	Society of Arts ½ p. Seven.
	Royal Society ½ p. Eight.
TH.	Society of Antiquaries Eight.
	Society of Literature Four.
SAT.	Royal Institution ½ p. Eight.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.

On the 2nd of May, Mr. Don, the Professor of Botany at King's College, delivered his first introductory lecture. It consisted of a history of the science, marking the progressive steps of discovery, from the earliest period to the present time. Among his illustrations, he exhibited some old Japanese works on Botany, in which the figures displayed more accuracy than is to be met with in the herbalists of Europe of the same date.

In illustrating the progress of the knowledge of plants in our own country, he placed in their true light the merits of those eminent Englishmen, Grew and Ray, who were respectively the first to make public sound doctrines on physiological and systematic Botany; he paid a just tribute to the two most distinguished ornaments of the science, Linnæus and Jussieu, instituting, at the same time, a comparison between them—allowing to each an equal claim to the title of genuine philosopher. Whilst Linnæus was remarkable for the exact discrimination of genera, Jussieu was equally eminent in combining plants into larger groups or families. After noticing the progressive steps, in modern times particularly, by which Botany has reached the position which it now occupies among the sciences, he showed how important an acquaintance with it is to the practitioner in medicine; and concluded by claiming the attention of his pupils, as having hereafter to employ the knowledge they should acquire in benefiting their fellow creatures, enlarging the sphere of useful discovery, and leading them to the contemplation of the works of the Creator.

FINE ARTS

EXHIBITION AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

[Second Notice.]

ONE of the claims of this Exhibition to be considered among the best of later years, rests upon the comparatively small number of portraits. It is true that we have some strange disfigurements "in this line," but we will not be tempted to sarcasm or reproof, where there is so much to admire, and when we can speak of the works of Briggs, Shee, Pickersgill, Wilkie, Phillips, Boxall, and Mrs. Carpenter, in terms of merited praise. We must, however, be content with enumerating a few; among these, a portrait by Phillips, of *The Hon. Mr. Justice Littledale* (No. 20) must not be forgotten. Mr. Pickersgill's *Dr. Synnors* (109) is another: his *Head of a Lady as a Pilgrim* (No. 131) is merely a repetition of a subject often painted by him with better effect. The President has not been fortunate in his subjects; glittering uniforms and court costumes are stubborn things to manage, so as to prevent their out-glaring the humanity they inclose: his *Head of a Jew Rabbi* (No. 189), however, shows what he can do when the man is of more consequence, and the tailor less. One of the portraits most to our liking in its character and expression is Wilkie's *Lord Montagu* (No. 320); doctors may disagree concerning its *mécanique*, but we feel it to be a work of intellect and power. The lady-portrait, which will excite the most attention, is that of *Lady King* (136) by Mrs. Carpenter: the face, if not precisely such as our fancy would assign to

Ada, sole daughter of my house and heart,

is natural and intelligent, and there is great simplicity in the attitude: the court-dress, worn by Lady King, adds something to her years, but we admire the manner in which the costume (so tempting to an artist of tawdry fancy) is treated, and we returned to the picture more than once. Mr. Boxall's portrait of *Lady Culham* (87) is graceful and natural, though somewhat thrown into the shade by more highly-coloured neighbours. A small head of *Allan Cunningham*, by the same artist (No. 80), struck us as the best male portrait we had seen from his hand.

From the realities of portraiture, we turn to the charming visions of Etty and Howard: these artists seem to dwell in a world which the spirits of trade and money-getting have not as yet defiled. We fear that such men are not estimated according to their merits; it is easy to comprehend a familiar attitude or expression, or to recognize scenes through which we travel once a week,—impossible for nine-tenths of mankind to step out of their hurrying circle of every-day life, for one hour's ramble with a poet or romancer. Mr. Etty's *Family of the Forest* (82), a group of sylvans crouched under a roof of vine leaves, is steeped in rich colour; but is not the hair of the female Gothic rather than Arcadian in its braiding? His *Psyche and Venus* (No. 96) is another delicious thing; with these we should mention Mr. Patten's *Bacchus and Iao* (No. 89), though its colouring approaches nearer to the coarseness of copper than the richness of gold. We have admired Mr. Howard's *Infant Bacchus brought to the Nymphs of Nysa by Mercury* (No. 91), many years ago, when it was engraved for one of the Annuals.

But while it is unmanly, as well as uncharitable, to frown upon day dreams, whether painted or written; it behoves the critic, upon occasions, to arouse the dreamer from his reverie; and we would willingly inquire of Mr. Turner, whether any passing thoughts of the world we live in, or the sky above it, floated across his mind while he was painting that splendid monstrosity, (No. 73,) a Venetian scene, which he has chosen to call *Juliet and her Nurse*: the sky—we presume night is the time intended—is of a rich noon-day blue, and the groups of revellers in the piazza below are rather flickering shadows than substantial beings, while the two females in the foreground (deformities in drawing) are all aflame with yellow, scarlet, and purple; it is needless to qualify our wonder by once again admiring the fine treatment of light, and shadow, and space, in which Turner is a magician. We were much better pleased with his *Rome from Mount Aventine* (No. 144), a gorgeous picture, full of air and sunshine, though sadly unfinished in its execution. No. 182, *Mercury and Argus*, is another of his rainbow-hued rhapsodies, a thing like much of Shelley's poetry, to be felt rather

than to be understood: here, too, he has given full vent to his poetical imagination, and, we grieve to add, extravagant colouring.

It is a relief to turn from such feverish and capricious displays of genius, splendid though they be, to the works of gentler-spirited artists, who look upon Nature as she is, and represent her upon canvas, faithfully but still not prosaically. This praise may be eminently given to No. 48, a large landscape by Calcott—the subject, nothing less homely than *Dutch Peasants returning from Market*. But the figures, though rustic, are not rude; the scene, merely a reedy pool of water, with a few trees, and a glimpse over a well-tilled country, has a peaceful beauty of its own: on the whole, this is a delightful picture. After it, we should mention the pair of landscapes by the same hand, numbered 110 and 130. Mr. Lee, too, has sent works—as, for instance, No. 225 and No. 344 (the latter especially)—admirable for their truth: few manage that difficult and monotonous object, a mass of summer foliage, so happily as this gentleman.

Mr. Collins may be said to rise a step higher, inasmuch as his rural pictures charm by their human tenants, not more than by their natural beauty: his *Sunday* (No. 135) wears an air of repose and respectability, wholly and indefeasibly English: to no other country could belong the pillioned horse, worthy to bear the weight of the placid old woman in the black silk cloak (a figure stepped out of Miss Bowles's tales); the children, too, in No. 194, are those merry-tongued, stout-limbed, honest-hearted urchins, which make us so proud of leading foreigners through our hamlets and homesteads. No. 175 is one of the sea-shore pictures in which Collins is alone; we seemed to hear the water washing the time-worn pier, and to feel the fresh sea-breeze as we stood before it.

After looking long for one of those conversation pieces in which Leslie illustrates so naturally and happily the classical authors of our own and stranger literatures, we found, at last, his *Autolykus* (329); on the whole, we are content with it. The knavish buxom pedlar, with his mouth wide open to give vent to the new "ballad of a fish that appeared upon the coast on Wednesday, the fourscore of April, forty thousand fathoms above water;" and his box of treasures, open enough to display "the tawdry lace and the pair of sweet gloves," with the other delights and dainties counted up in his metrical catalogue, surrounded by a parcel of staring, simple rustics, (less of bumpkins, however, than the clodpoles of our own time and country,) has been very cleverly hit off: perhaps Mr. Leslie did not find it so easy to shadow forth the inimitable sweetness and simplicity of *Perdita*, as to display the more quaint and clownish personages of the play; for the King's daughter is not to be seen even at a distance.

In following our own fancies, rather than the canonical laws of criticism, we have passed over a few pictures which, according to the strict rules of precedence, ought to have received an earlier notice. Among these, is Mr. Hart's *Lord Chancellor Sir Thomas More, receiving the benediction of his Father, Judge More, in the Court of King's Bench* (No. 353), a carefully composed and well-coloured historical picture. There is, too, a little head of a *Boy with a Hawk* (No. 277), by the same artist, which has lingered in our memory. We ought, too, to make mention of Stanfield's huge picture of the *Battle of Trafalgar* (290), painted for the United Service Club—of Mr. Uwins' and Mr. Eastlake's Italian groups—of Mr. Cooper's horses—of Mr. Rippingille's *Tale of Sorrow* (No. 288), and to take some notice of Mr. Westall's *Cortes in the Chapel of the Convent of Rabida* (No. 21), in which his "never-ending still-beginning" three faces, are employed no less melodramatically than usual: nor should we forget the battle scenes and glimpses of old continental towns, in which Mr. Jones is so happy: his *Prague* (No. 154) is a beautiful specimen of its class. A picture or two in the ante-room deserve mention, as being ambitious in choice of subject, or approaching excellence in their execution; among these, are Mr. Partridge's portrait of *Mrs. Arabella Fermor* (No. 362), a richly painted assemblage of beauty, and fine clothes, and jewellery, and furniture; and—a total contrast—Mr. Cope's *Death Warrant* (371), which would be clever if it were only less exaggerated in its expression: the

countenance of the priest, who warns the captive that his last hour is come, has been distorted in the attempt to impart to it the fullest impressiveness. Lastly, we make our exit from these upper regions with a passing look at Mr. C. Landseer's illustration of the distracted days of the civil war (No. 374), the *Phundering of Basing House*.

Descending to the Antique Academy, it is difficult to avoid utter bewilderment amongst the thousand miniatures of all shapes and sizes which crowd its walls. The old-established favourites of the public are here in full force: Chalon, with all his grace, and, in the drawing, No. 466, the *Lady Louise Cavendish*, none of his affectation. In the two studies of *Lady Macbeth*, 476 and 491, he has tried to bend a bow he is not vigorous enough to wield; and produced merely a colossal woman, magnificent as far as brocade and jewellery can make her, and with a certain melo-dramatic impressiveness of attitude: but, without his having so much as touched the grandeur of her crime—the tremendous agony of her remorse. Lover has contributed some of its best ornaments to this room; his style looks positively large among the thousand tiny heads hung up, whose painters seem to imagine that the greatest perfection is in the smallest conceivable spots of colour, or a smoothness of manner making the human complexion a thing of porcelain and enamel. No. 465, the likeness of *Mooltee Mahomed Ismael Khan, Ambassador from the King of Oude*, is positively gorgeous, from the splendour of its colouring, but not in the least gaudy. Here, too, are some of Mr. Jones's clever drawings, and Mr. Lewis's *Spanish Gipsy Girls*, sketched at Seville (592). The rest of the manifold contents of this room must be passed without further notice.

THE LAWRENCE GALLERY.

Albert Dürer and Titian furnish the present exhibition with fifty drawings apiece, the most insignificant original of which might claim a visit to itself. In particular the Dürer specimens deserve notice, being no other than the celebrated Belvedere collection, swept by one of Bonaparte's fortunate soldiers into his knapsack, after the siege of Vienna. A generous Englishman purchased the stolen goods, and so we became enriched by them without the shame of a direct robbery. No. 1, is a magnificent *Head*, that might be of Arminius (we mean the hero, not the heretic). No. 3, *Our Lord before Pilate*. In expression the Germans surpass all artists but Leonardo. Here are meekness and the pride of office exhibited with amazing effect by the placid brow of the Christ and the swollen lip of the Pilate, as well as by every other trait, gesture, attribute, of the two personages: yet a few pen lines work the miracle. We may add, that almost all the pen drawings of this series are superlative. No. 17, *Shoemen at work*, very curious; No. 29, *Groups of Peasants*, done with a force and firmness as if engraved, not drawn on paper; No. 31, *A Fine Lady*: Death supporting her train, points up to her with satirical applause, as if he said—"Lo, what a great dame I follow!" No. 43, *Adoration of the Wise Men*, itself the adoration, not of wise men perhaps, but connoisseurs. No. 45, *Four Heads*, penmanship indeed! At No. 5, we have the *Head of an Old Man*, fully equal to Leonardo, however different in style; nothing can exceed the finish combined with freedom of this drawing, the rare union that distinguishes a first rate artist. No. 6, *Ditto*; capital likewise. A *Portrait*, No. 10, is Venetian for colour, though done in pastilles, and looks like a Titian, both for goldenness of tone and dignity of expression. We imagine ourselves to see a fault of drawing in the *Hands*, No. 11. At Nos. 12 and 41, there are *Studies of Flowers*, in body colours on vellum, curious, and delicate as lady-painting, though a great deal firmer. No. 22, a *Wild Duck*, done to perfection—to please the most Epicurean taste of a cognoscente. Nos. 23 and 25, two exquisite little *Landscapes*, scenes from the Tyrol of Lilliput, by some fairly-handed artist. Nos. 24 and 26, *Heads*, finished with the metal point; two of the most inestimable gems here. No. 47, *Soldiers on Horseback*, curious and interesting as an early specimen; grotesque, but full of the future Michaelangelo Tedesco. We have not specified half the excellent things, for want of space and time.—The Titian series is the more valuable, as landscape designs are rather few in the Lawrence

collection. No. 54, presents a composition of that sedate sublimity, usual with Titian, rare with every other artist. No. 59, *Ditto*; superb. No. 61, the *Colosseum*; in a large style, commensurate with the ruins. No. 68, *Piping Shepherds*; the simplicity of treatment harmonizes with the subject; we almost regret Titian ever improved the primitive Giorgionesque manner. Nos. 71 and 72, *Landscape Studies* for the St. Peter Martyr: both wonderfully fine; the rejected one perhaps wilder and more sublime; the chosen one by its sloped plane gives a kind of fall to the scene, in admirable keeping with the nature of the action. No. 74, a *Landscape*, deemed matchless; the female figure therein is Titian's ugly Venus of the Tribune. Nos. 75, 76, 80, three *Landscapes*, all remarkable; the first for beauty of composition, the second for grandeur of style, (those sweeping lines betoken mastery—sovereign mastery—skill mere will), and the third for breadth of handling. No. 84, seems another idea for St. Peter Martyr, and happier in this, that there are two assassins. Chef-d'œuvre as the painting is, it always struck us as a singular composition to make two stout monks overwhelmed by one bandit, which was endowing him with a courage, and them with a spirit of resignation, rather improbable; besides, a horseman is put to flight in the background! Would Raffael have done this? Nos. 94, 95, 98, *Landscapes*, only not pre-eminent, because so many others of this series are unsurpassable. The figure drawings evince no less merit. No. 51, *St. Mark*, is truly the domineering Saint of Venice; this character, so congenial with Titian's own, may be seen in his portrait, No. 61, the type of all his senatorial dignitaries. No. 55, *Group of Figures*, a few flourishes with the pen, displaying perhaps more consummate power than any other work in the room. No. 62, *A Sultana and her Attendants*, every face, feature, every line, cut as with a scymetar, by the Grand Signor of Painting. If any amateur wish to know what the "great style" is, let him look here, and at No. 100, a *Study for the Battle of Cadore*. No. 64, *A Procession*, excellent. No. 65, *Death of the Virgin*, though done with only a bistre pen, gives all the rich colouring and mellow effect of the master; deficient in costume as a Dutch historical picture. At No. 67, we have a sketch for the *Sacrifice of Isaac* with its two companions in the Salute, perhaps Titian's masterpieces off the easel. No. 69, is not the celebrated Venus of the Tribune (as we are told by the Catalogue), being wholly different, save in the principal figure, which is the same perfection of Cyprian beauty, and almost as splendid for colour. Neither is No. 97, the "*Scourging*" of the Louvre, which is rather a *Crowning with Thorns*; but here too, the principal figure led the Catalogue astray by its resemblance. Again, we suspect, that No. 70, is not the portrait of Philip II., but of Charles V.; it defies encomium. No. 78, *A Crucifixion*; grace of movement and intensity of gesture, so hard to be reconciled. We must conclude, however unwillingly, with No. 82, a *Holy Family*, equal to Fra Bartolommeo in all but his unapproachable beneficence of expression.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

DRURY LANE.

This Evening, THE BRONZE HORSE, & GUY MANNERING. On Monday, LA SONNAMBULA; and THE RED MASK.

ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, THE SMUGGLER OF ST. BRIEUX; THE GUNPOWDER PLOT; THE MAN ABOUT TOWN; and THE BOTTLE IMP.

MADAME MALIBRAN and MADLE GRISI will sing a GRAND SCENA from Mercadante's *Andromico*, in Mr. DE BERTOT'S MORNING CONCERT, on the 9th of June, at the Concert Room, King's Theatre. It will be the first time of their singing together in public this season.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.—The Sixth Concert was as brilliant as its three predecessors had been disappointing. We had good music, good singers, and one of the most, if not wholly the most, remarkable of modern instrumentalists. We allude to M. Thalberg, whose performance upon the pianoforte is as original and peculiar as Paganini's upon the violin; and we are inclined to think of as surpassing excellence: the place, however, of such an artist, is hardly to be assigned him, on a single hearing. One remarkable merit of M. Thalberg's playing is, its total freedom from that trickery into which one less intellectually gifted would certainly be tempted, by the possession of such extraordinary mechanical

powers. We were constantly reminded of the noblest organ-playing, by the huge handfuls of chords which he threw out in the most rapid succession, and with such solid precision as to suggest the idea of four hands being upon the keys at once. His tone, too, while it is remarkably delicate and singing, is as remarkably full and distinct; his shake round and glittering; and his passages so full of expression, even when most rapid and complicated, as to give another death-blow to that *gew-gaw* style of playing, which would turn the pianoforte into a musical snuff-box a hundred times magnified. The music M. Thalberg selected for his *début* in England was a grand fantasia of his own, which he performed without orchestral accompaniment. It was striking as a composition, full of unforeseen changes scientifically contrived, and original ideas happily imagined. We have, as yet, seen nothing from his pen but pieces of this fragmentary character, which, however fully they display the fancy of the writer, can hardly do his powers, natural and acquired, such satisfactory justice as compositions of a more regular—we will not say *formal*—nature; but we hope to have many opportunities of amending and completing our judgment of this highly-gifted artist. With respect to the rest of the scheme, we have but to add, that the *Sinfonias* were Beethoven's *Pastorale*, and Haydn's No. 2; the *Overtures*, Spohr's to 'Pietro von Abano,' and Weber's 'Der Freischütz'; and that Messrs. Mori, Watts, Moralt, and Lindley, played a Quartett of Haydn's in the second act. M. Ivanoff, who has gained much manly gravity of style since we last heard him, was *encored* for his exquisite singing of Mozart's 'O cara imagine.' In the duet, 'Ove vai,' from 'Guillaume Tell,' he was assisted by Mr. Phillips, whose singing of Italian music is disfigured by his abrupt mousing manner: the latter also sung a scena from 'Pietro von Abano.' Madame Malibran de Beriot appeared in this orchestra with her best looks and her best voice. She gave Mozart's charming 'Non più di fiori,' with more than her usual inspiration, and was most enthusiastically applauded.

MR. MOSCHELES' CONCERT.—Though compelled to more than usual brevity, by the crowd of conflicting matters which are just now claiming our attention, we must single out this Concert from among the other similar entertainments of the week; or, to speak more concisely, we must single out its principal attraction—the playing of its *bénéficiaire*. This was heard in all its varied excellence, in his own Concerto Pathétique—a composition full of intellect and feeling—containing such difficulties of style as must baffle any performer, save one who is at once a sound musician and a clever mechanist—and in the Posthumous Concerto, by Sebastian Bach, which was a treat of the highest order. We felt, as we listened to this admirable ancient music, how miserably all the tricks and conceits of certain modern composers show when contrasted with the purpose and the solidity of the fathers of the art;—as a piece of playing, too, we never heard anything at once more grand and more finished. Besides these, Mr. Moscheles joined in a showy duet with De Beriot, and extemporized, taking for a theme one of those strange and disjointed collections of sound, by which M. Sudre (who exhibited his system of Telephony between the acts) represents a phrase of words. The vocal pieces were performed by Madame Malibran, Signor Lablache, Miss C. Novello, Mr. Balfe, and Mr. Parry, jun.

MISCELLANEA

Encouragement to Literature and Science in France.—The sum of 120,000*l.* is annually devoted to this purpose by our enlightened neighbours, and is distributed among the Institute of France, the Royal College, the Museum of Natural History, the Board of Longitude, the Royal Library, the Museum of the Louvre, &c.; including an allowance for the encouragement of the dramatic art; for the publication of travels of French *savants*; for pensions to 90 literary men and artists; and for some other objects. To our own executive, we would say, "Go thou, and do likewise."

Imperial Library at Vienna.—Besides a great General Alphabetical Catalogue of the printed books, about 300,000 in number, so arranged that every

new acquisition may be readily inserted, there are nine special Catalogues; viz. of prints and maps, the prints alone amounting to 300,000, and valued at as many pounds sterling; of the collection of autographs, lately commenced, even now 8000 in number (with a separate Catalogue for Oriental autographs); of the 12,000 volumes printed before the year 1500; of practical works upon music—these with the theoretical being 6000; of Hebrew works; of Slavonic books; of all the Bibles; of all Latin Philological MSS.; and of the Oriental MSS. amounting to 1000, besides 793 Chinese and Indian books. There is also a reference Catalogue of all works acquired since 1822, and various other special Catalogues are in progress, but above all the *Great General Scientific or Classified Catalogue* is said to be in a forward state of preparation; while at our own National Museum which contains not much more than two-thirds of the printed books, and about one-third of the prints, the only accessible Catalogue of the Printed Books is an *Alphabetical* one in 22 vols.; and as for MSS., the "pressing want" of a General Classified Catalogue or Index is obvious to every one who has occasion to consult them. Vide *Athenæum*, p. 285.

Portrait of Napoleon.—A beautiful portrait of Napoleon, by Isabey, and formerly belonging to the Empress Josephine, came into the possession of an American gentleman, named Sanderson, who presented it to the President, General Jackson, by whom it was placed in one of the public edifices at New York. That alone was saved from the flames, although the building, in which it was, was entirely destroyed in the late fire.

Human Skeleton.—Some workmen employed behind the left wing of the Museum at Boulogne, found the buried skeleton of half a human body; each limb was imprisoned in a series of iron rings woven together; a second wire, thinner than that of the rings, linked the whole together, and supported the ligatures at nearly equal distances.

Sea Serpents.—M. de Liebold has seen two sea serpents in 1° 29' north latitude, in the Chinese seas; they floated on the top of the water, then plunged in, and re-appeared at a great distance, but they did not seem to be very active. One, the *hydrophis pelamis*, was from eighteen inches to two feet long, and was spotted with yellow; the other was venomous.

Artificial Camphor.—Artificial camphor may be obtained by passing a current of dry, hydrochloric acid gas through oil of turpentine. The absorption of the gas by the turpentine takes place with great rapidity, especially if the vessel containing the turpentine be surrounded by ice. Two substances are formed during this process, the one solid, and the other liquid. The solid, generally called artificial camphor, is composed of carbon, hydrogen, and chlorine, offers large, elongated crystals when purified by sublimation, is aromatic in flavour, though not strong, burns with a very bright and strong green flame, and, unlike common camphor, is not soluble in alcohol. Nitrate of silver does not disturb the solution, but the alkalis, chalk, &c. decompose it, by taking from it the hydrochloric acid.

Parrots.—M. Flourens has read before the French Academy of Sciences a memoir, written by Dr. Duvernoy, of Strasburg, on the tongues of birds; among others that of the parrot, which he says does not at all influence the power of speaking in this bird. It depends chiefly on the perfection of the lower larynx, in which the voice of birds is formed, and, according to M. Duvernoy, the parrot is the most skilful of all ventriloquists.

Scales of Fishes.—A M. Dumesnil, of Wunstorf, states, that according to his observations the metallic lustre of the scales of fishes is due to the presence of the purest silver, and that the 1200th part of a grain of silver is contained in the scale of a carp.

Premature Interment.—In a French work on the uncertainty of the signs of death, and modes of burial, a fact is brought forward of a man, now alive, who has been buried twice.

Should the Emperor of Austria hear of Mr. Upcott's Collection of 32,000 Letters, illustrated with 3000 portraits, there is little doubt that it would speedily find its way to Vienna. The Emperor seldom, if ever, refuses any Collection proposed to him by the Director of the Imperial Library, whatever may be its price. There is no "driving of bargains" at Vienna, or bidding half, or a third, of the price asked.

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ATKYN'S GLOUCESTER.—Bloomfield's Norfolk—Boswell's Cornwall—Bridges's Northamptonshire—Drake's York—Durdale's Monasticism, St. Paul's, Summons, Warwickshire, and other Works—Edmondson's Heraldry—Fuller's Church History—Gunton's Peterborough—Hasted's Kent—Gough's Camden—Morant's Essex—Worcestershire—Tanner's Monasticism—Rudder's Gloucestershire—Nichols's Bibliotheca Topographica—Nichols's Progresses of Elizabeth—Lord Orford's Works—Grose and Pennant's various Works—Snelling's Gold, Silver, and Copper Coins—Strutt's Manners, Antiquities, Chronicles, and Dictionary of Engravers—Thoroton's Nottinghamshire—Throsby's Leicester-shire—Willis's Cathedral—Aubrey's Surrey—Leland's History—Valpy's Classics—Johnson's Poets—the best Editions of the Works of Bacon, Locke, Gibbon, Robertson, Rollin, Hume, Smollett, Shakespeare, Pope, Swift, Goldsmith, &c. &c. Jeremy Taylor, Tillotson—Several early printed Classics, &c.

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The ANNIVERSARY DINNER of the HOSPITAL, and in AID of the BUILDING FUND, will take place on Monday, the 6th of June next, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street; The Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR in the Chair.

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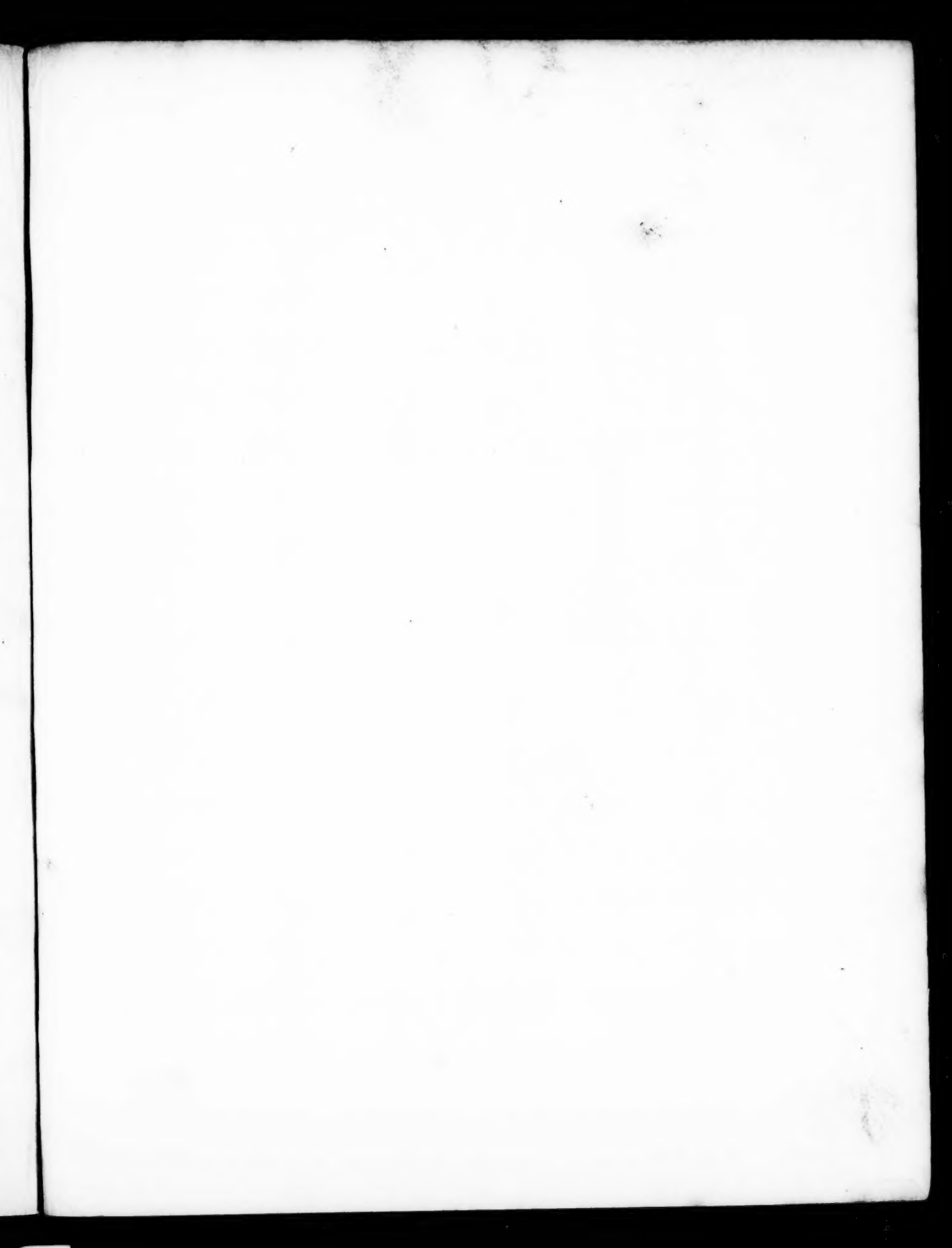
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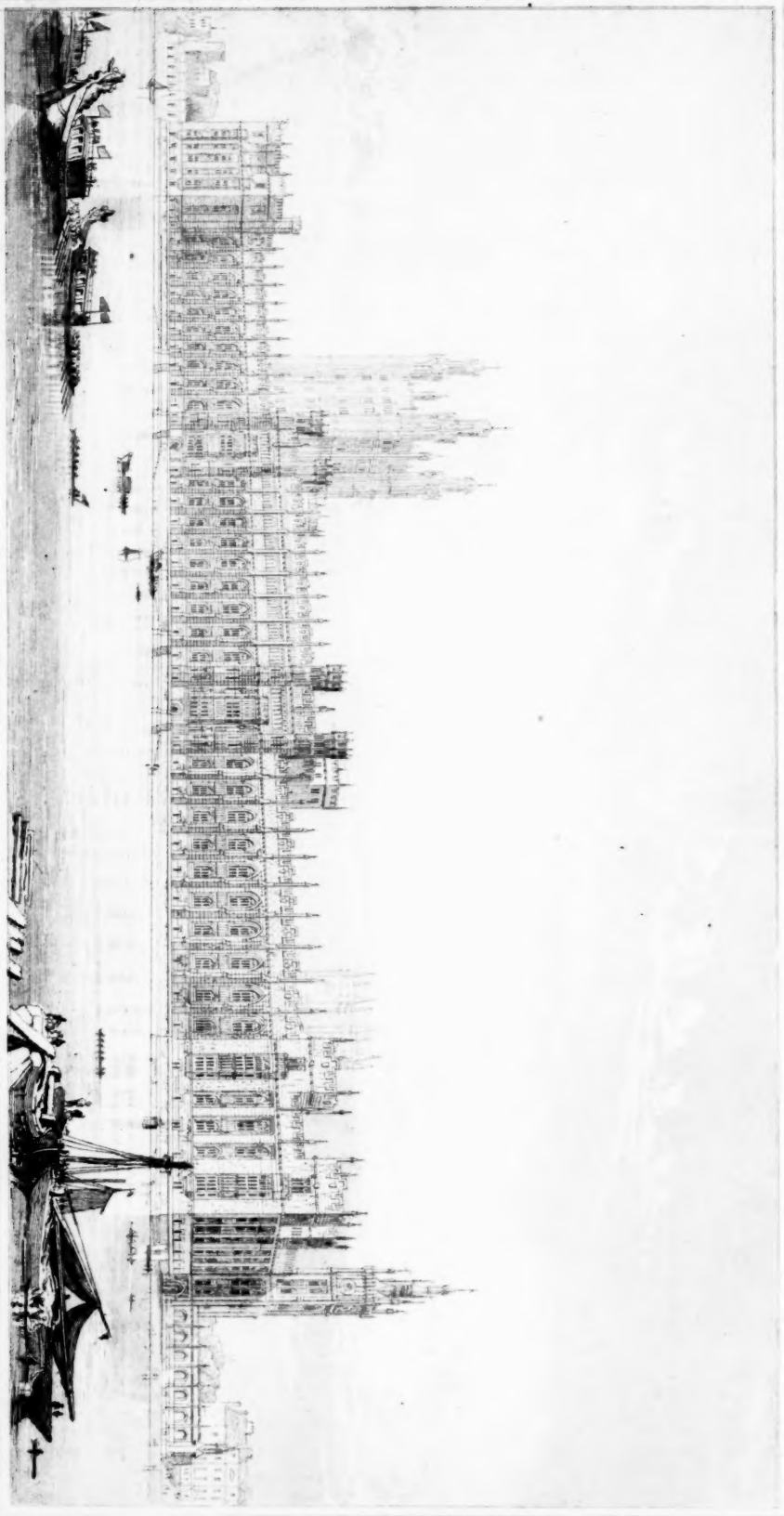
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